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Anthony Bevins Political Editor

John Major yesterday warned the country that it risked the midsummer nightmare of a Labour landslide. opening the way for Tony Blair to reaction was confused, with some overturn Tory success with the policies of full-blooded Socialism.

Fresh from the triumph of the Wirral South by election, the Labour. leader yesterday appeared at his party's Welsh conference, in Liandudno, with new MP Ben Chapman, . 56, a former civil servant.

Mr Blair said there was a newfound trust in New Labour, "the onenation party of British politics", and that Wirral South represented "nothing short of a political uprising against the Tories deep in their

chance. Mr Blair urged the Prime Minister: "For heaven's sake, in the interests of the country, stop the

Faced with the 17-per-cent swing to Labour in Wirral South, the Tory

"In a few weeks' time," he said, There is a new trust in New Labour, "the one

"the people of Wirral will have the

chance to vote again, and so will the

"So the battle is still to be fought.

rest of the country, and that decision

might change the face of Britain.

Does Britain change course? Does it move to the policies of socialism?

nation party of politics" ... Wirral South is "a political uprising against the Tories deep in their heartlands." - Tony Blair

ministers, confidently saying they would win it all hack in an election at most two moaths away on 1 May. But others warned of the revolutionary threat posed by Mr Blair's Socialist party to the family, com-

heartlands".

The voters of Wirral South had had their say; now it was time for the rest of the country to have their

"phoney war". He said in a BBC However, Mr Major then added: "If we had voting like last night, there would be a Labour government with interview: "We will win back Wirral at the general election". But he also warned of the consequences of a a clear majority, able to do what it Wirral-scale general election landwished, without let or hindrance"

On the basis of the Wirral South swing, Labour would have a majority of more than 290. Some of Mr Major's senior advisers are warning that a Labour majority on that scale would deliver more than 100 fully-fledged Socialist MPs into the Labour ranks in the Commons. with all the risks that would entail".

The risk of talking up the Labour threat is that it might add to Labour credibility and further depress Conservative morale, at a time when even some ministers believe that the party is doomed.

The evidence for that pessimism can be seen in Westminster's up-andrunning campaign for the next Conservative leadership contest, which is built on an assumption of defeat. servative Party." Lahour's Chief

Mr Major insisted: "The whole Cabinet thinks it's going to win the election, not just me ... and I think the parliamentary [Conservative] party increasingly helicyes that is the

Mr Blair said that while the Gov-

plain the gobbledygook that he talked in his interviews today. 'If we had voting like last night, there would be a Labour government with a clear majority, able to do what it wished, without

ernment had long ago given up governing, its complacent reaction to Wirral South showed that it had also

given up listening.
"They dismiss it as a protest vote of no significance and carry on. he said. "Arrogant, out of touch, squabbling already about who should be the next leader, that is today's Con-

let or hindrance pretty much. -John MajorPaddy Ashdown said Liberal Deand chips in from of the television. mocrats had one message for Mr Major: "The game's up. The longer you leave it the harder you fall.

Whip. Donald Dewar, said: "Major

seems to have lost the plot. It is clear

that John Major has been up all night

and what's more, his morale has hit rock bottom. Nothing else can ex-

Labour deputy leader John Prescott, who led the Wirral South campaign, said Labour had never believed the general election result was sewn up. "We've lost four elections," he said in a BBC radio

interview. "But we now think there is the best chance we have ever had". Labour had contacted 25,000 peo ple during the campaign, and Mr Prescott said: "We had the best or-

ganisation and the best candidate. We used all the modern methods. We had good policy, good organisation, and it clearly paid off." But the Prime Minister told Channel 4 News that Mr Blair was different things to different people. In Country Life magazine, he was a country gentleman, but in an inter-

view with the Sun he said he ate fish

They are saying different things to different people". Mr Chapman, is expected to take his parliamentary place on Monday, when the Government will again move into a Commons minority of one, with 322 seats to the Opposition's 323.

Stonehenge is French imposter

David Keys Archaeology Correspondent

Stonchenge - the pre-eminent symbol of Britain's ancient heritage - wasn't built by the British at all, but by the French. according to the latest archae-ological research. A comparative analysis of

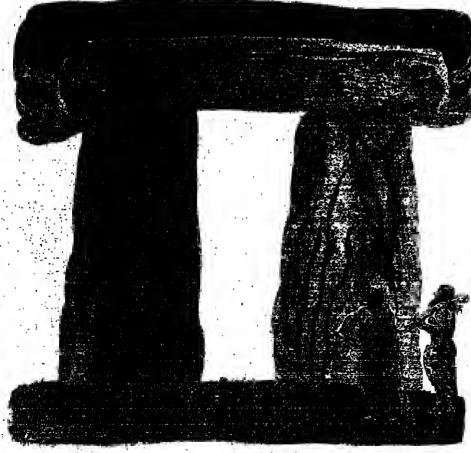
British and French prehistoric monuments has revealed that Stonchenge has little in common with other British Neolithic structures, but shares many features with monuments on the other side of the Channel Stonehenge's horseshoe design is very rare in Britain, but common in western France - espe-

cially Brittany.
Dr Aubrey Burl, one of Britain's leading prehistorians, said last night: The array of non-British features in it suggest that Stonehenge was probably the handiwork of a powerful and intrusive aristocracy from somewhere in western France, perhaps Brittany.

The Stonehenge horseshoe's astronomical alignment - link-ing it with the mid-winter sunset - is not typical of British prehistoric sites, but is again commou m Brittany.

The geometry and astronomical alignments of the rec-tangle formed by Stonehenge's so-called Station Stones have no equivalents in Britain or Ireland but do have parallels in northwest France. Stonehenge's figurative art is also unique in Britain, but common in Britany.

Until two years ago, archaeologists thought the main part of Stonehenge was built around 2,000 BC. New dating tests have the previous period, the Nenow revealed, however, that olithic, when the stone circles in the French connection.



around 600 years earlier.

THE BROADSHEET

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structure of the so-called Wessex Culture which flourished from c2100 BC to c1600 BC, but was instead built by people in

the monument was constructed of Avebury, and four massive earthwork ritual enclosures in This means that Stonehenge Wiltshire and Dorset were conis not an early Bronze Age structed at virtually the same time - around 2600 BC.

Significantly, Avebury also once appeared to have had a central horseshoe layout -and may therefore also have shared

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Saturday Story20

It may well be that much of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset were taken over by congherors from Western France sometime between 2800 and 2600 BC and that the great prehistoric temple of Stonehenge was as much a symbol of the new order and of conquest as

it was of religious devotion. Books 6-8 Country, Gardening .18,19 Crossword, Games2 Motoring22 Property23,24 Weather31

Le Carré dines out with Karla

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

The creator of spymaster George Smiley last night sat down to dinner with the man who, in 1991, became the reallife version of Smiley's arch-en-

Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, met his favourite anthor John le Carre, for the first time last night at the Russian Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens. The thaw in the Cold War

means that le Carré was able to meet the man who headed the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service - VRS, the successor to the KGB - from 1991 until he became Foreign Minister in January last year. Mr Primakov has had extensive dealings with the KGB

throughout his life, and there have been reports that he was an active KGB officer during his early career as a journalist and academic. Earlier yesterday. Mr Primakov met Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who pre-

lev's People signed by himself and John le Carré. Mr Primakov, 68, arrived on Thursday and dined with John

£1.7m fine for fatal fall

Four companies were fined a

record £1.7m over the collapse

of a ferry walkway in 1994 that

left six people dead. Page 5

sented him with a copy of Smi-

Major. Yesterday he made a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at

"He's a tough, impressive negotiator who knows his stuff, a diplomat said yesterday. "There's a bit of the old style and a lot of the new style. He's an impressive operator. And he's very secure in the Russian system.

Mr Primakov is a life-long friend of Oleg Kalugin, the KGB general who was chief of counter-intelligence and later turned against the organisa-tion after 1990. They met in 1959 as traince journalists.

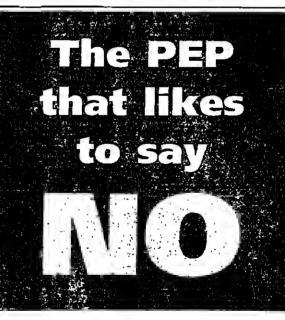
Yesterday's negotiations centred on Nato's plans in enlarge to embrace the new democracies of Eastern Europe which will require a "charter" between the alliance and Russia. Although Mr Primakov said Russia still opposed Nato enlargement to the east, he and his British counterpart appeared to agree on many

It is not quite clear whose idea it was for Mr Primakov to meet John le Carré last night. But a Russian Embassy official said, "John le Carré's name is quite well known in

QUICKLY

NatWest said first-half profits would take a £50m bit to cover "mispricing errors" at its investment banking arm. Page 22

NatWest's £50m blow



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EU postpones decision on citrus fruit restrictions A European Union committee which is debatiog whether to

impose trade restrictions on citrus fruits has failed to reach a final The Committee on Plant Health will wait until its next Brussels

meeting in a month's time to decide whether to introduce a ban on fruits from South Africa and South America, from where Britain gets its entire summer citrus supply.

The Ministry of Agriculture is fighting swiogeing restrictions and

British producers are angry that other member states support a ban which would give Mediterranean citrus growers control of the European market.

Southern European fruit is harvested in the wioter and the proposed ban, sponsored by Greece, would lead to chronic shortages and high prices of citrus in British shops this summer.

Doug Henderson, chief executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium, said: "We will not allow them to creep this through in carrott slippers."

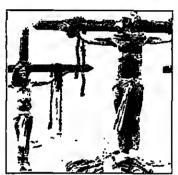
Mummified body found in cupboard

Police called to a routine domestic dispute found a mummified body of a nearly naked man in a cupboard under the stairs, a court heard vesterday. The hadly decomposed and maggot-infested body of 51-year-old Jeffrey Brown, wearing only an anorak, vest and socks, had been in the cupboard since his death five months earlier. Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Cheryl Godward, the resident of the house at Sneinton, Nottingham, and a friend of the dead man, told police she left him at her home with two prostitutes. Judge John Hopkin jailed Godward, 29, for four years after she admitted obstructing the coroner. The judge said that because of Godward's actions in concealing the body, it had been impossible to establish how the former miner met his death,

Godward said when she returned Mr Brown was either uoconscious or dead. She put him in the cuphoard and nailed it shut. The authorities were only alerted when, five months later. police were called to a domestic dispute and were met by a

New lease of life for Brian



Councillors at Swansea yesterday agreed to lift a 17-year ban on the Monty Python film *The Life of Brian*.

They decided that the movie

a spoof on the Jesus Christ story and condemned as blasphemous by some church leaders when it was first released - could be screened in the city in aid of Comic Relief next month. In 1980 councillors voted 22-

15 to refuse the film a licence.

Car thieves take a day off

A police force was celebrating another success for its "zero tolerance" anti-crime campaign vesterday - 24 hours without a car

Cleveland Police's three month offensive to clamp down on all kinds of offending, no matter how trivial, has already produced a string of benefits and the car thieves' day off is seen as another milestone. The fresh breakthrough came during the 24 hours of Wednesday when, according to police records, not a single car was taken in Middleshrough, long regarded as one of the nation's auto

On Thursday there were three car thefts - but even that was not totally bad news in a town which averages seven such thefts a day.

A special crackdown on burglary in the force area led to a 37.7 per cent decrease in the number of incidents last month. Over a four month period 1,214 burglaries have been detected, with 945 arrests and property worth £167.875 recovered.

BT museum to close

British Telecom is to close the shutters on its national telephones museum, blaming falling attendances and commercial pressures. The central London site houses some 800 exhibits from the UK's dominant role in the development of telephones and telegraphs from the early 19th century to the most modern fibre optic

Despite free admission the museum attracted just 20,000 visitors last year and will shut for good on 1 August. Four staff will be redeployed or take voluntary redundancy, while the remaining two senior employees will try to find a new home for the world's largest collection, which includes a warchouse near Heathrow airport filled with tens of thousands of items. BT insisted it remained committed to managing its heritage. Staff were said to he "very sad" about the decisioo."

'Stowaway' reluctant to leave prison

A judge yesterday expressed astonishment that a fireman should be allowed to "stowaway" in Brixton Prison, south London, for nearly a week after becoming bored with life on the outside.

Judge Jeffrey Rucker said he could not understand why David Watson should want to ask for a further spell of bed and board at

Her Majesty's pleasure, and expressed similar puzzlement that the authorities there should find him a cell. When prison officials realised the firefighter was on bail and that they were holding him illegally, he was quickly escorted to

unwanted freedom. "I must admit this has its humorous aspects. But I assure you that we are treating this matter most seriously," said the judge.

MSF chief re-elected

Roger Lyons has been re-elected general secretary of Manufacturing Science Finance, the biggest white collar union in the private sector. Mr Lyoos, a Lahour Party supporter, defeated the Communist-backed Joe Bowers, a Belfast regional officer of the union, by 56.510 votes to 26.668 - a margin on two **Barrie Clement**

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Fondest farewell: Imelda Marcos mourns her husband as his body arrives back in Manila

Imelda's red letter day is no cold comfort for Ferdinand

the world's largest collection of loafers, slingbacks, stilettos, sandals and associated footwear but Imelda Marcos can still claim familiarity with that most unwelcome feature of modern life - the final

To anyone who has ever been the unhappy reciplent of a red letter in a small brown envelope, the news that even the former First Lady of the Philippines is unable to settle her electricity bill may offer a crumb of comfort. But uniquely, it will not be merely the fish fingers that spoil when Imelda's deep freeze is disconnected; the late President himself will feel the heat under his starched collar.

Since the deposed dictator's death in 1989, he has the soft lights of a bespoke mausoleum, in which the cool temperature is carefully monitored, so as to maintain his Excellency's excellence for future generations

of Filiplnos to enjoy.

But life after death does not come cheap. In fact, the llocos Norte Electric Co-operative, which supplies power to the mausoleum, in the grounds of the family mansion at Batac - Marcos's birthplace - estimates that seven years' Immortality comes to about \$214,500

Trouble is, Imelda's a bit strapped just now. And with

Stars shine out

in tribute to

charming Tinker

packed yesterday as the theatre

industry paid tribute to the famous

Daily Mail critic, Jack Tinker, who

it is e measure of Tinker's per-

death from a heart attack last year

at the ege of 58 was mourned not

just by his readers but by the ac-

tors he wrote about and his rivals,

who have just posthumously vot-

The packed house was filled

with faces from Fleet Street and

ly Mail readers. Jack in Review

was assembled in haste by Tin-

ker's friend Cameron Mackintosh

and was e slickly produced two-

tributes. The proceeds went to

The British Epilepsy Association

(Tinker's daughter Charlotte died

Tinker would have fought to get

Dame Judi Dench, deadpan in a

during an epileptic attack at the

e ticket. Dora Bryan sang "Dia-monds are a Girl's Best Friend".

The audience squealed with delight at the 73 year old's high kicks.

pink dimdl and bad blonde wig,

joined Brendan O'Hea in a comic

rendition of "You are 16 going on

17' from The Sound of Music. Her

fellow theetrical dame, Berry

Sondheim's "The Ladies Who

Humphries, gave his version of

The afternoon's highlight was

age of 24).

hour anthology of show tunes and

show business and countless Dai-

sonal charm thet his sudden

ed him Critic of the Year.

The London Palledium was

died last year.

he may be the proud (and shameless) owner of the billions her husband stole from the nation (and gave to his friends in Geneva for safe-keeping) tied up in an endless cycle of legal actions involving several jurisdictions, the lady's financial embarrassment is not likely to be swiftly resolved.

As the deadline for payment expired yesterday, Rommilas Pascual, president of the power co-operative said: "We have given them [the Marcos family] enough time to pay their bills. We are trying our best to talk to Mrs Marcos but she does not seem interested to settle the problem.

"This is an ultimatum," he added firmly. Meanwhile, Mrs Marcos, who returned to the Philips. pines after her husband's death and was later elected a congresswoman, was not available for comment. An aide simply said she was "out of town".

It is not the first time that Mrs Marcos has been left reaching for the candles. Electricity to her mansion was interrupted in April last year, when the family failed to pay arrears dating from before their sudden departure for exile in Hawaii in 1986. But it was restored after. several days when e son-in-law made partial payment.

On that occasion, however, the power co-operative apared the mausoleum, in deference to the town's. "favourite son" following the emotional pleas of local government officials, still loyal to the old regime.

City firm denies Horlick rumour

A fund-management company yesterday denied reports that Nicole Horlick, the former City high-flyer, was joining them as an

employee. Ely Fund Managers, which controls about £250m of investors' money, said it had no plans to employ Ms Horlick.

One of the company's directors, Nick Bancroft, said yesterday that no discussions had taken place with her. "We have not talked to her and she has not talked to us. I've not met her and I don't think anybody else here has either," said Mr Bancroft. "The first we knew about this was when we read reports this morning."

a similarly named City firm, Ely Place Investments. A spokesman denied any knowledge of e deal involving Ma Horlick joining them.

The message was the same from

"I've only met her once and that was at a presentation and we did not discuss jobs," he said. Ma Hortick was dubbed "Superwoman" for her ability to juggle her high-flying job as

pensions-fund manager at the City bank, Morgan Grenfell, with her role as the mother of five children. She was ousted from the bank over altegations - which she denies - that she tried to lure her team of staff to e rival fund manager. She hit the headlines after inviting the media to join her as she confronted her bosses at Morgan Grenfell over her ejection from the company.

Ms Horlick could not be

contacted yesterday.

Children's achievements likely to mirror their parents

A mother's education is a powerful indicator of her children's likely educational achievements, new research suggests. If a limit of the mother's highest qualification is an O-level, then her child has purly a 12 per cent probability of gaining a university degree, but if the mother is a graduate, the likelihood of her son or dampiter following suit is 69 per cent, according to a stridy by John Chinedh. Professor of Economics Essex university economics professor. The link is particularly clear between the actievements of mothers and daughters. Professor Ermisch found.

His research, published in a paper titled Family Mattern, also found no evidence to suggest that having a mother in employment when a child is 14 in any way reduces educational attainment. Controversial research featured in a Panorama programme had month suggested children whose mothers worked full time suffered educationally. By contrast, Professor Ermisch found that having a working mether may even increase the odds that the child gifet on

working mether may even increase the odds that the child give

to A-levels and beyond.

Family Matters, John Ermisch, £4, Centre for Economic Policy Research. Tel: 0171-878 2900.

WEATHER

Threat of drought ebbs away

The threat of drought receded as a wet and extremely windy. February blew itself out yesterday. Reservoirs are mostly nearly full—as they should be at this time of year—and groundwister! levels have et last begun to rise slowly. Rainfall in England and Wales was more than 38 per cent above the long-term average for the shortest month, following one of the driest Januaries in a record stretching back nearly 300 years.

Rainfall over the six months from September—the period in which the country's water supplies are reolenished—has been 80

which the country's water supplies are replenished - has been 80 per cent of the long term average.

This February has seen three weeks of strong winds, with depression after depression sweeping in from the west. The Meteorological Office said it was the most tempestmous period since the start of 1990, when there was the second of the two Great Storms of recent memory. This time, the fastest gust recorded in the north was at Lewis in the Western Isles (101mph on 19 February) and, in the south, at Lee on Soient, Hants (90mph on 24



Death toll falls in US for first time

Giving fresh hope in the battle against Aids, the numbers of deaths from the disease fell significantly in the US during the first billiof 1996, for the first time since it was first detected in 1981.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta

ported that deaths from Aids fell by roughly 12 per cent over the six-month period. The decline was registered in all regions of the country, although its extent varied between different ethnic groups. Deaths among whites fell by 21 per cent, for example, but only by 2 per cent among African Americans.

The drop, which compared with a startling 30 per cent decline

recently reported by New York City for the whole of 1996, was attributed to various factors, including the recent introduction of promising new drugs called protease inhibitors. Experts also cited improved AIDS ewareness programmes and improved access to

care for sufferers of the disease.

President Clinton welcomed the figures, but added: "It is also clear that the Aids epidemic is not over." David Usborne, New York

HOME AFFAIRS

inspector warns on jail cuts

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has attacked proposed cuts in funding at a jail, which he said are "unacceptable" and will result in inmates being locked in their cells for almost 24 hours a day.

Sir David Ramsbotham argued that this would prevent inmates being rehabilitated and learning new skills to stop them reoffending on their release. His outspoken report follows a visit to Gloucester prison, which houses both young offenders and adults. He said the jall faced s cut in running costs of 15 per cent by April 2000.

"It is quite unacceptable for a modern prison to find itself in the

position where, by the end of the century most prisoners will be locked in their cells all the time save for small periods on exercise and a little association," he said.

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium.

commented: "The bleak regime ... would make it impossible to rehabilitate prisoners. It would turn them out of prison much more embittered and more confirmed in criminal attitudes than Jason Bennetto when they went in."

ROYAL MAIL

It's guicker to stick than lick

Self-edhesive stamps are to go on sale in Scotland and Northern Ireland in March on e six-month trial, Royal Mail said yesterday. But they are unlikely to be bought by the public during the trial period, as they are being sold in rolls of 100. If they prove successful, they could go on sale throughout the UK to business

Royal Mail says it is targeting small and medium-sized firms in Scotland with the message, "It's quick to stick". Alex Gibb, Royal Mail's general manager for Scotland, said: "This is probably one of the biggest changes to British stamps since the Penny Black was introduced more than 150 years ago.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers

in the first half of 1996

RADIO 3. BREAKING NEW SOUND BARRIERS.

an extract from the Royal Netional

Theatre's Guys and Dolls. Theatre

critics joined in with the revivalist

closing speech ineisted that none

of them would be replacing Jack

Tinker. "A hard act to follow, he

became as big a star as anyone

he wrote about. He was romantic

about the theatre but never senti-

Tinker's strength as a critic,

ley in his almost total identification

with his readers' tastes. This un-

erring ability to understand what

they would love and hate earned

him their effection and their loyal-

ty. A lot of people love the theatre

but the show in Tinker's honour at

the Paltadium proved that it actu-

Louise Levine

ally loved him back.

aside from his skills as e writer,

mental.

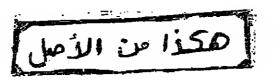
"Sit Down You're Rocking the

Boat". Sir David English in his



FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE CENTURY, RADIO 3 HIGHLIGHTS THE COMPOSERS WHO REFLECT THE VITALITY AND RANGE OF 20TH CENTURY MUSIC. 'SOUNDING THE CENTURY' CONTINUES WITH THE CBSO, CONDUCTED BY SIR SIMON RATTLE, PERFORMING MUSIC BY BERIO, LUTOSLAWSKI AND MESSIAEN, WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH AT 7.30PM, LIVE ON RADIO 3.





A solo in the

So that was London fashion week. But after all the swagger, who will wear the clothes?

[حكذا من الأصل]



A small army of buyers are now deciphering the trends that will fill shops in autumn

Amid all the glitz, glamour and endless hype of London Fashion Week, which ended yesterday, there have been clothes for real women that will make their way into the shops this autumn. Among them are those designed by Alexander McQueen, the maverick conturier for Givenchy, and John Rocha, the Dublin based, Hong Kong-born designer whose clothes are pictured. Every day you will have newspapers and on television: but are these clothes what we will really be wearing come

Many of the ciothes - particularly the more extravagant items designed to catch the

tween now and autumn an intricate series of events will determine what will be "the fashion", and what will not. Rita Britton, from designer emporium Pollyanna in Barnsley, was in London all week buying the clothes her working customers in Yorkshire will want. "What people who read that half the clothes shown

don't even go into production."

A typical fashion show will have between 300 and 1,000 guests. Half of the guests will be press, and will either write about the clothes, or use them in fashion shoots. These people will determine The Trends. The other half of the audience will be fashion buyers from stores all over the world, who determine eyes of the photographers - do what we actually buy by shap-not make it on to shop rails. Being The Bends into real clothes.



Buyers are the designers' bread and butter. Without them, clothing like McQueen's and Rocha's, for example, would remain a fantasy. As well as these two designers, Lynette White, fashion buyer for Liberty, is responsible for buying Hussein Chalayan and Helmut Lang.

For her, the catwalk presentation is incidental, the real decisions will be made in the

buy from a particular designer depends on their performance last year, and we only take risks with new designers if they are exceptional," she said. Yesterday she was writing orders for Rocba's collection which showed on Wednesday. "His clothes sold very well for us last autumn." she explained."

When a buyer selects clothing it must be wearable and sellable, but not necessarily

F-f-f-f-fashion? Far left, an offering from Alexander McQueen that might actually reach the high street and, above, one of ations that almost certainly will not. Quick change: one of Vivienne Westwood's models, centre, is helped into her next outfit during one of the shows

buy watered down fashion that people will easily understand. our aim is to educate the customer, to give them the ideas and opportunities to wear exciting clothes.

Rocha admitted that he was not a good salesman, but with his annual turnover now approaching £5m and selling to countries, he has hit on a formula. " My designs come from the heart, and fortunately the buying public understands what I'm trying to say." He knows that what he does essentially is to "put clothes on backs". But they are truly beautiful clothes.

Alexander McQueen dress in

the shops that consists of just a

collar with tassles to cover the

breasts. Nor will you find a fus-cia pink faux snakeskin jacket

by Antonio Berardi. Even

though they were shown on the

catwalk, they are unrealistic.

However, McQueen bumster

trousers have sold at Liberty, as

McQueen's clothes are aimed at a different customer. so Lynette White takes a difbave intricate coats by Yohji Yamamoto. The result is someferent approach. You will not thing of a compromise. Lynette see McQueen g-string denim White said: "We don't aim to shorts or peak-shouldered

breast-baring garments like the ones shown on Thursday in Liberty. She will be buying Mc-Queen's beited cowhide coats. cut-out leather dresses, skintight jeans and sharply embroidered suits. "Things are going more and more 'streety',' she said. "McQueen's show was a breath of fresh air, and proved that it's not important to have the essential black tailored suit anymore. That is not what people want from Mc-Qucen.

So, next time you see a model on the catwalk wearing a scemingly unwearable outfit. remember, there is an army of people out there whose sole aim s to translate what they see on the catwalk into something you can wear, and that is true purpose of London Fashion Week, despite all the hype.



Five great sections for the very best in



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In a relationship, the woman has the power that comes from man's inability to think about anything but women ...9

Hollywood's biggest rascal, Jack Nicholson, talks exclusively to David Thomson

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IT IS. ARE YOU?

A soldier's life is glinting in the bottom of the glass

The Army intends to revive the Napoleonic art of luring new re-

cruits over a pint in the pub.
For the first time in more than 200 years soldiers will be. sent out with a brief to enlist young men between 18 and 26 by buying them a beer over a chat in their local.

Over 300 soldiers from the 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment will be involved in the novel re-cruitment campaign which begins next Saturday.
They will work in teams of

four and go armed with a kitty to buy likely recruits a drink. The regiment has targeted 88

puls popular with young people in 15 Midland towns which form their recruiting heartland. The towns include Derby, Notting-ham, Worcester, Reddirch, Burton, Newark and Chesterfield.

The three-week recruitment drive has been approved by the Ministry of Defence and is being closely monitored by other regiments, who may take up the idea if it's a succe

"We are reverting to the old style recruiting methods of skir-mishing used 200 years ago when barracks didn't exist and soldiers were billeted in inns which were a very fruitful source of recruits," said Major John Cotterill who is in command of the operation.

"In those days soldiers led by a recruiting sergeant would buy boys a pint of foaming ale and leave a king's shilling in the bottom of the glass.

"Once the prospective recruit had finished his pint he was deemed to have accepted the king's shilling or enisament bounty and the next thing they knew they had been whisked away on a troop ship to fight Napoleon," said Major Cotterill.



Offering the king's shilling: A recruiting sergeant 'tempts a

"We will not be kidnapping anyone this time. The idea is not to ply people with drink, knock them over the head and carry

them away.
"Our teams will go into pubs wearing uniform and seek to engage boys of their own age in conversation," he added. "They will chat and seek to convince people this is the life for them and they ought to join their loyear. The regiment - motto "Firm" - was founded in 1694

and many soldiers are being sent to recruit in pubs in their bome The regiment contains 700

soldiers and requires 100 new recruits every year. Officers are hoping this and other pro-jects during the next three weeks will unearth all the recruits they need for the next The armoured infantry bat-

talion is based in Tidworth, Wiltshire and soldiers will spend much of this year training in A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "This is obvi-

ously a very inventive, localised recruiting campaign which may or may not work. "It will certainly keep the

Army in the public eye in the area from which that regiment raises its manpower."
The battalion performs a ceremony unique to the Army

on 20 September each year. A private is allowed to carry the regimental colours to mark the battle of Alma during the Crimean war in 1854 when every officer and sergeant in the regiment was either killed or wounded and the regimental colours were carried into bat-tle by Private Keenan.

The regiment was the first in the British Army to cross the River Seine during the advance across France in 1944. The last soldier to be wound-

I suspect they will be buying people a pint of beer because its cheaper than whisky and you wouldn't get so much time to ed in Northern Ireland before the 1994 IRA ceasefire, Lance Corporal Nobby Clarke, was talk to a bloke drinking a short," serving with the regiment in Major Cotterill said.
The project is being financed



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Lucky God is one of the chosen

David Usborne

those of Earth, He may have struck lucky. The Almighty has others all across the land, inbeen chosen by American Family Publishers, a sweepstakes ornisation, as a potential winner of \$11m (£7m).

In what appears to have been a case of extreme computer ec-centricity, a letter of notification was sent by Family Publishers earlier this week to a small Penracostal church in rural Florida. Rather than being for its Pastor, Bill Brack, however, the letter was addressed directly to

If God has ever considered rading the riches of Heaven for for you," it declared, insisting that He - alongside millions of cluding myself - had been "positively identified" as being in the running for the multi-million

Like most sane people, Pastor Brock would have normally thrown the envelope away unopened. It was only when his youth counselfor spotted the addressee that he saved it.

incredible fortune there would be for God! Could you imagine the looks you'd get from your neighbors. But don't just sit there, God!" Pastor Brock is holding on to

Mary Evans Picture Library

He went on: "It won't be a

matter of soldiers walking into pubs and saying right the drinks are on the house. They won't

be distributing largesse to all

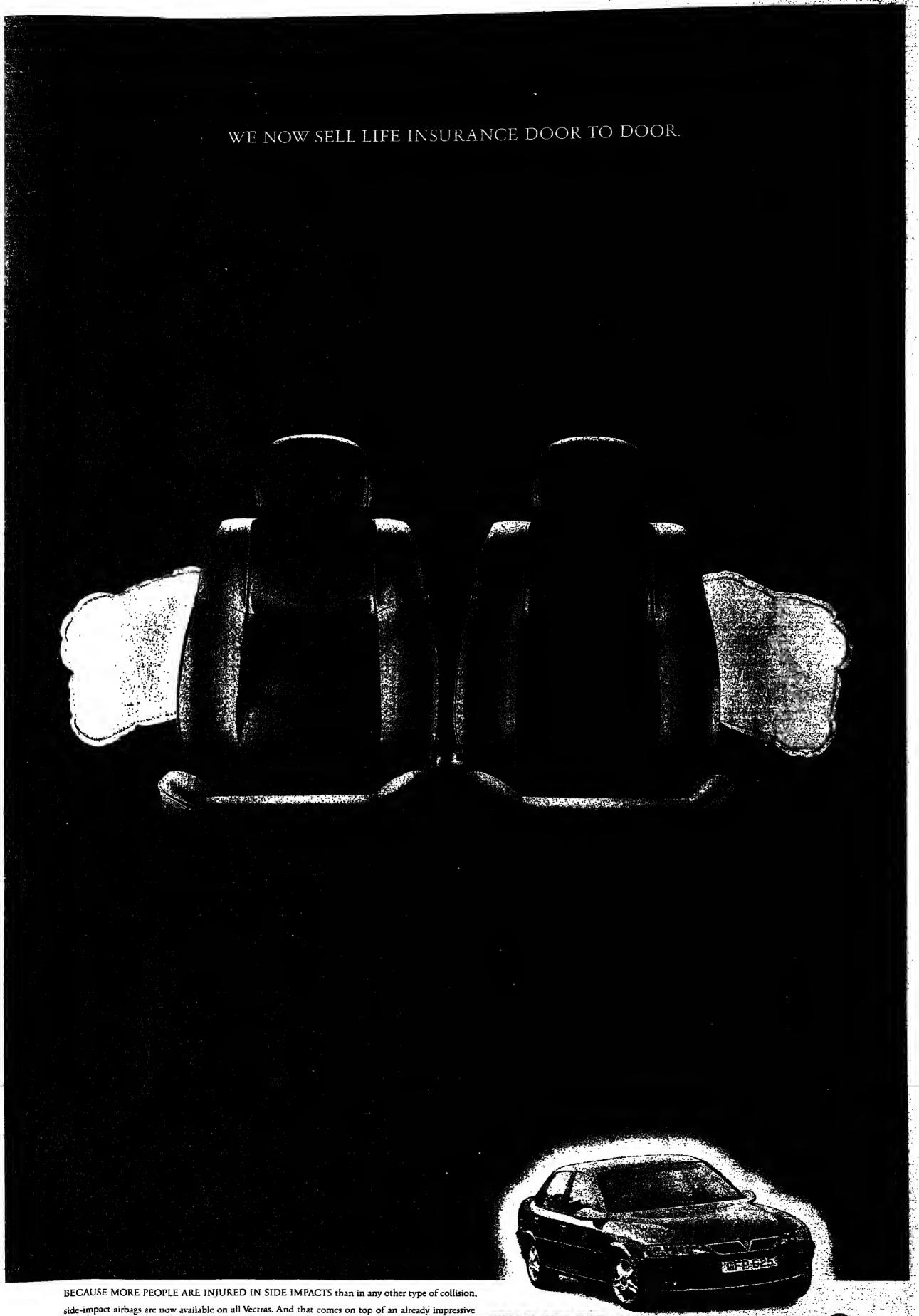
the letter. "I want to consult with my church board, before doing anything crazy," he said yesterday. However, he says that if God were selected, he would play the Almighty for the

sweepstakes people. "I believe in God, but I don't believe in sweepstakes," said The letter inside, adorned Pastor Brock, whose church is

with the usual quasi-offical seals and stickers, went on: "What an north of Tampa. "But if they north of Tampa. "But if they turn up at the church door with \$11m then I will believe in sweepstakes too."

Of course, responding to the letter would entail God giving something back to Family Publishers. In my case, the quid pro quo was agreeing to subscribe to a motley range of weekly publications I had never heard of.

There was nothing on the list likely to be of much use in heaven. But then, of course, we know now that God does not live in Heaven, after all, but in Bush-



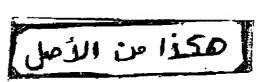
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£1.7m fines after ferry walkway tragedy

Michael Streeter

A judge yesterday fined four companies a record total of £1.7m over the collapse of a ferry walkway which left six people dead and seven others badly

Two Swedish firms who designed, huilt and installed the Lid, he said, must share rewalkway at the Port of Ramsgate in Kent were fined a total of £1m, the port 200 and Lloyd's Register of Shipping. which gave the device a safety certificate, £500,000 - the first criminal conviction in its 237-

The fines, which follow conviction on 17 February after a four-week trial pave the way for the injured and relatives of the dead to sue for massive civil damages, likely to total hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Richard Scorer, a solicitor representing a number of the claimants said later: "Compensation claims have already been lodged. I'm confident they. will be settled, particularly in the light of the fines and verdict."

Passing sentence in the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Clarke said: This was a tragic accident a died. which should never have happened. I hope that nothing like it will ever happen again."

The previous largest fine for a charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act was £750,000, imposed in 1988 following three fatal accidents at an oil refinery. Two Britons were among the six passengers who a Health and Safety Executive died when a steel pin holding. the walkway in place came loose on 14 September 1994, as hundreds of passengers were edguity to one charge brought hoarding the Prins Filip ferry under the Health and Safety at

from Ramsgate to Ostend. Steven Jones, 34, from Manchester, and Jason Dudley, 42, from Epping, Essex, died, as well as two French tourists, one Belgian and an Italian.

to a steel platform below.

The Swedish companie FEAB and FKAB were guilty of "gross errors" of design, said the judge. There was also "gross negligence on the part of Lloyd's Register" - or rather its employees. Port of Ramsgate sponsibility for the collapse of the walkway, although much less than in the case of the other defendants".

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive, which hrought the prosecutions, said later that it was "satisfied" with the sentences which it hoped

would act as a warning.
The Swedish firms, who on legal advice were not represented in court, cannot legally be forced to pay the fines, because they have no UK assets, but it will bar them from

trading here until they do. Patrick O'Ferreall, chairman of Lloyd's Register said later: "I am personally extremely sorry that this dreadful accident happened. We wish to express our sympathies to those injured and to the families of those who

The Port of Ramsgate Ltd later said it was considering an appeal against sentence and conviction. The company does not feel it was culpable for the tragedy which occurred in 1994," said a spokeswoman.

Port Ramsgate Ltd, and the Swedish companies, had denied charge of failing to ensure the safety of passengers. Lloyd's Register of Shipping, had plead-Work Act 1974

Port Ramsgate Ltd was also found guilty of a lesser charge under the Docks Regulations The defendants were or



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Victorian Swampy challenges the planners described him as "the only

A subterranean labyrinth excavated by a nineteenth century forerunner of Swampy, the road protester, is under threat from planned housing develop-

The extraordinary network of tunnels beneath the streets of central Liverpool was created by Joseph Williamson, an eccentric philanthropist.

. A tohacco baron with a bizarre fetish for tunnelling, he spent 35 years hollowing out immense underground caverns and earning the nickname The Mole of Edge Hill".

One elaborately-created underground banqueting hall is 80ft long and 40ft high, containing entrances to 25 tunnels, some of which extend for miles beneath the city. Now the Mole, like Swampy, is at war with developers, albeit posthumously.

Liverpool City Council has approved plans to build 21 student homes on a site immediately above the main entrances to the labyrinth. The decision has bewildered local historians, who had hoped to turn the area into a shrine to

Williamson's Tunnels group, argue that the labyrinth could Williamson's obituary in the Liverpool Mercury in 1840 concluded: "No earthly use can be igned for these catacombs."

But now local people believe that the tunnels, cut from solid rock and supported by brick arches, lead to a brighter future of new jobs and tourist revenue.

Some 200 people, who attended a meeting last week of the newly-formed Friends of

> "Swampy", whose underground sit-in defied bailiffs during the A30 bypass protests in south Devnn, vesterday pledged to help build a bigger network of tunnels to try to block an airport's second ranway. Campaigners claim that

come a major auraction.

the underground honeycomh,

whose excavation between 1806

and 1840 provided well-paid

work during the slump after the Napoleonic wars.

So grateful were the local fam-

ilies, many of whom were also

It would be a fitting legacy for

Environment, is unnecessary and will blight the countryside. As Swampy, alias Daniel Hooper, 23, arrived at the site near Muhberley. Cheshire, he said: "This is

polintion for profit and I am determined to stop it. the £172 million scheme for "I will be here for as loug Manchester Airport,

"The King of Edge Hill." Williamson's constituency is once again in need of help. The once leafy district now has associations with a different underworld, where Liverpool's armed gangs settle their scores and police unearth caches of illegaliv-held automatic weapons. Williamson's once splendid Williamson's tenants, that they home in Mason Street is now a

approved by John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the

often referred to the eccentric as derelict garage.

Not that he was ostentatious. He lived like a troglodyte at the rear of his house, sleeping in a cavern and using a

cellar as his living room. His hurly figure was a familiar sight on the streets of Liverpool in a hattered beaver hat, patched brown coat, corduroy breeches and hobnail

while the real one digs in as it takes." He said protesters were

> evict them. Work clearing the site is expected to start in the Police have warned the campaigners that their tunnels are potentially lethal because of seeping methane

planning to tunnel under the

water table to foil attempts to

humble origins as the son of a poor Warrington farmer who came to Liverpool at the age of 11 to seek his fortune. He found work with a tohacco company, which he took

Williamson had come from

gentleman in Liverpool".

charge of years later after marrying the daughter of the boss. The tobacco trade hrought him great riches which he invested in his excavations. Historians estimate that the network of tunnels cost Williamson £100,000, equivalent to £25m today. Local archivist Dave Head

said: The site is worth far more as a tourist attraction than as student accommoda-

But Carol Young, one of the architects planning the student development, said that a rafted design would protect the tunnels from damage. "The fears are unfounded," she said.

Williamson's tunnel mania. Swampy: Runway protest .The purpose of the burrow-Seven other passengers were sendered jointly to pay costs riously injured as more than a totalling £723,500. Photograph Peter Macdiarmid ing has never been established.

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Labour's lean machine beats teacups



electorate is the weekly trickle

of data from local council by-

elections. These were seized by

the Tories late last year when

they appeared to herald a re-

covery in their fortunes. But

that has since faded, resembling what City analysts call a "dead

cal bounce". The latest esti-

mates of the parties' share of the

votes in these contests, adjust-

ed to take account of local cir-

comstances, show Labour in the

lead across the country by 18 per cent - much the same as the

opinion polls.
So, in order to forecast even

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The contrast between Labour's lean, mean election machine and the laid-back amateurism of the Conservatives in Wirral South can be measured in tea

It became a habit for Les Byrom, the hapless Conservative candidate, to attend "housemeetings" with visiting Cabinet ninisters. But it soon emerged that the invited guests were the party faithful, and that men such as the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, and the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, were wasting time talking to the con-

verted over tea and biscuits. Over at Labour campaign headquarters, in a converted supermarket, the professionalism, sense of purpose and direction were visibly humming under the overall command of Ian McCariney, MP for Makerfield, a leading member of John Prescott's campaign team.

Mr McCartney was joined by David Hanson, MP for Delyn, a reginnal party official, David Evans, and a team that united party officials from around the country with local volunteers and party members in a tighthy-run unit.

Labour no longer flies by the seat of its pants. Little, if anything, is left to chance and no

detail is too small. When Tony Blair visited the Arrowe Park Hospital with the party candidate, Ben Chapman, last Monday, there was a fat, fact-packed media briefing paper on the problems faced by the hospital trust, and even a aborted the Wirral ballot.

man carrying a cardboard sheath of four golfing umbrellas to protect the leader and his entourage in case it rained.

On the day the Speaker moved the by-election writ in the Commons, Mr Prescott was on hand to listen to a "live sound feed" of Betty Boothroyd at Westminster, to give the

campaign its official launch. This was all in stark contrast to the shambles of the Michael Foot campaign in 1983. Swamped wherever he went by crowds of schoolchildren and television crews, he wandered

WARAL SOUTH RESULT LABOUR GAME FROM CONSCIENTATIVES

Bis Cangense (Lab) 22,767 53%;
Lai System (7 14,679 545)

Ph. Carcas (Linders) 4,257 (105)

around the country with the air of a man who was not sure which town he was in, or why he

was there in the first place. In Wirral, the Conservatives could not even give an assurance the by-election would even take place on 27 February, because the Prime Minister was dithering over calling a 10 April gen-eral election, which would have

time banging on about Labour's threat to local grammar schools. when Labour had identified other issues, such as health and crime, as more important

in the mind of the electorate. Yet when Mr Dorrell and the Home Secretary Michael Howard went to Wirral, they talked about grammar schools instead of their own areas of re-

sponsibility - health and crime. Labour, which had carried out detailed surveys of the voters, both on the doorstep and through extensive telephone canvassing, already knew that the voters' concerns coincided with the party's five pledges: on hospital waiting lists; class sizes; youth unemployment; fast-track punishment for young offenders; tax, inflation and interest rates.

Those were the messages hammered hame, and the concerns that were addressed, with those voters who were identified as "switchers" - people of all ages and generations who were thinking, many for the first time in their lives, of moving from Tory to Labour.

As much effort was devoted to ensuring that Labour's core vote also turned out on the cnuncil estates. If the New Labour switchers were the icing, the old Labour hard core was the cake.

Mr Chapman, the new Labour MP, now has the daunting task of trying to maintain the momentum for another nine weeks. Having achieved the impossible, a swing of 17 per cent swing, on Thursday, he now needs the miracle of retaining the seat in May.

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a Labour majority of fewer than 100 seats, we have to aschance to give the Govern-ment a "kicking", and that the surprising, because if the polls decision will be very different in are right. Mr. Blair would still sume two things. One is that the win a 190-seat inajority.

After this, the Tories begin to a few weeks' time when the votvoters of the Wirral will return ers there are choosing a govin unprecedented numbers to ernment rather than sending a run out of excuses, message to one. They cannot blame defeat on the Tories in just nine weeks even though, unlike in previous But there is scant evidence of their supporters staying at this from last time. In the Lang-home. The turnout of 73 per by-elections, they tell opinion pollsters they will do no such i by-election before the 1992 general election, there. Nationally, the turnout at the The other is that the nationwas a 4 per cent swing to last general election was 78 al opinion polls are still getting Labour. In the general election per cent (contrary to the comit badly wrong, despite the itself, the swing to Labour was mon assumption of growing changes made by all the poiling just 2 per cent. So in five apathy, this was up from 75 per months, after the hard-hitting cent in 1987 and 73 per cent in companies since the debacle of 1992. They are unlikely to be as 1983). And this cannot simply far out as they were in 1992. But the final nail through the attack on Labour's "tax bombshell". John Major was able to be put down to Labour's inpull back the swingometer by tensive telephone canvassing: heart of Tory hopes is that, even

if they were that far out, Mr

Blair would still win with a ma-

John Rentoul

marginal seats in the general election, backed by a national The only other hard evi-

Blair of 230 seats. Paradoxical-

ly, there is more hope for the

Tories in the message of the

opinion polls. The polls in

point or two of the result.

Wirral South were all within a

If we take the average of this

month's national polls, they

suggest a swing to Labour of

only 12.5 per cent since the last

election. We have yet to hear

mind real votes in real ballot

it is tempting to believe Michael a Tory politician say: "Never

ers of the Wirral took the boxes, look at the opinion chance to give the Governor polls? But perhaps this is not

only two points. This time he has they will be doing that too in key

. jority of 80.

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eral election in two months

time. There is no hard evi-

dence to suggest that, dramat-

Conservatives can avoid disas-

Labour since the 1992 election

in Wirral South were repeated

across the country. Tony Blair

would win with a majority of 293

seats. This seems so fanciful that

Heseltine's claim that the vot-

two months. Even if he can pull back two points, that would

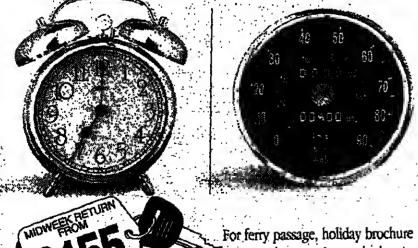
leave a swing to Labour of 15.

per cent and a majority for Mr

If the 17 per cent swing to

events apart, the

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Thieves' horde of religious riches

Matthew Brace

An Aladdin's Cave of alter crosses, candlesticks, communion cups and other religious property stolen from churches and cathedrals around the country has been found in a small north London flat.

Police said the one-bedroom flat was full of ecclesiastical artefacts, including a bishop's mitre from Westminster Cathedral.

Elaborately embroided velvet clerical boods, stoles, copes and tunicles are among the hoard discovered hidden in cupboards, wardrobes and a chest of drawers.

Also present in the small flat were tapestries, 18th century gold communion plates, paintings, Latin bibles, ancient seals, chalices, crucifixes, incense burners and altar banners.

Detective Constable Dave Hobart said: There's enough religious property from this flat to stock several churches."

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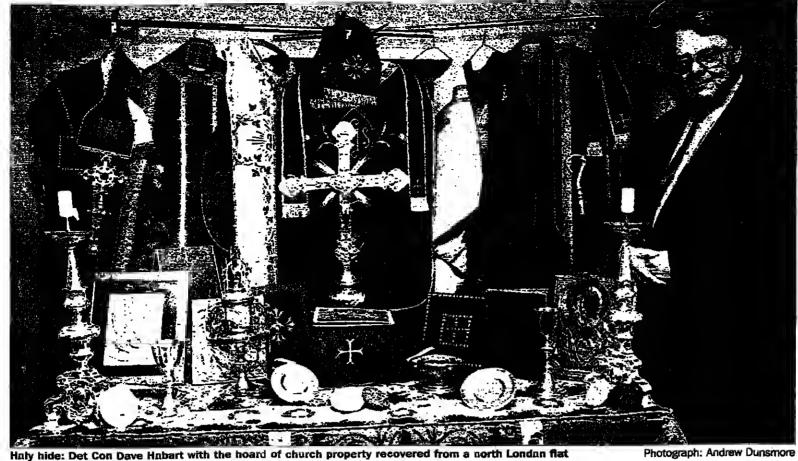
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BBC gets shot of its broadcast network

Westminster Correspondent

The BBC lost the second B in its name yesterday when it sold, its transmitter network to a private company for £244m

The sale to Castle Transmission Services, a consortium headed by Houston-based. Castle, means that in future the British Broadcasting Corporation will buy in transmission services. Another consequence of the sale, which took effect yestransmitter network will be in foreign hands, following the sale last year of the ITV system the land and transmitters on to the US-owned NTL nearly 740 sites across Britain.

Both the BBC and the Department of National Heritage expressed delight at the sale. The BBC is to use the proceeds to invest in providing its oew digital television systems and said it would be buying in trans-mission services at a lower cost

than it was paying previously. BBC Deputy Director-Gen-eral Bob Phillis said: "We are delighted that in Castle we have found a purchaser who best satisfied those criteria as well as offering excellent fi-cancial terms." The price was £30-£50m more than forecast.

A BBC spokesman said the

corporatioo would not be changing its name: "We may have sold our transmission network but we still consider ourselves as a broadcaster. Anyway, we are called the BBC in our

charter."
Virginia Bottomley, the national heritage secretary, said: The BBC will retain the net proceeds of the sale to invest in digital productioo technology and related work. It is also good oews for licence-fee payers. The BBC have secured a

transferred to the new outfit but may well face job losses.

Derek Foster, the shadow is just the latest in a long line of privatisations which are being rushed through to beat the and will no longer broadcast the election deadline. This un-programmes it makes. seemly haste puts into doubt seemly haste puts into doubt the best deal and there are also bound to be doubts over the job security of the staff."

The partners include Telediffusion de France, part of the France Telecom Group, and investment firms Berkshire ierday, is that the entire UK. Partners and Candover Invest-

The assets in the sale include Under the terms of the deal, 500 BBC staff will transfer to the new company.

BBC transmission began operations 75 years ago from a single transmitting station on the roof of Selfridge's department store in London's central Oxford Street.

The Castle consortium has beeo granted a 10-year contract for transmission of BBC1 and BBC2 analogue televisioo services and the BBC's five na-tional radio stations. The transmission service for digital television, when it starts, will be put out to tender.

However, one old transmitter has been excluded from the deal and remains in the joint hands of BBC and Castle Transmission Services. The redundant 2LO transmitter, which was used for the first broadcast of radio services io November 1922, has recently been repaired by local engineers in Daventry, where the tiny seven-foot high tower oow stands. call sign that preceded all programmes from Marconi House good return oo past invest- in the Strand, to which the ment." All 500 staff have been transmitter was later moved.

21 1 Row builds up over the latest privatisation

Christian Wolman

Ministers have been accused of house management bid team rushing through the privatisa- were on that group and Mr tion of the Building Research Raynsford claimed that this Establishment without creating a "level playing field for all bid-

Nick Raynsford, the shadow construction minister, has ac-Jones, the minister for construction, of being "economical with the truth" over the pri-vatisation of the BRE, which carries out research on building materials for the Government and the industry. The BRE is being sold to an in-house management team which beat off full and straightforward ancompetition from University College London and the deal is supposed to be completed within the next few days at a price an inquiry into the sale by the that has yet to be announced.

up to examine a range of issues ideological reasons with scant relating to the organisation's inregard to the public interest."

come, efficiency and expendi-ture. Five members of the ingave them an unfair advantage over outside bidders.

He said that in parliameotary answers Mr Jones had claimed that no documentation cused his counterpart, Robert relating to that group had been disclosed to either bidder. However, in a subsequent answer, Mr Jones confirmed that five members of the in-house team had been oo the study group.

Mr Raynsford told the Commons: "I believe that this involves a serious failure to give swers to parliamentary ques-

Mr Raynsford is demanding Commons Environment Com-Earlier this week Mr Rayns- mittee and said yesterday: "The ford failed in a call for an way in which this privatisation emergency debate on the issue has been conducted raises sein Parliament. He said an in- rious grounds for concern. The ternal study group into the fu-ture of the BRE had been set this privatisation through for

Adams urges move to prevent parades

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said last night that the onus was on the British and Irish ssue of contentious loyalist of last year."

parades in Northern Ireland. But the Irish Prime Minister parades in Northern Ireland.

He spoke out after meeting of residents of the nationalist Garvaghy Road in Portadown, Co Armagh, where Orange-men marched last summer after a three-day stand-off with police at Drumcree

This year, Mr Adams said: "Nationalists are not prepared to let the Orange Order walk over them. The days of Orange supremacy are long gone." He said the local MP, Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, could show leadership by engaging

with his own constituents.

governments to resolve the ention of the disgraceful events

John Bruton, speaking on a visit to Northern Ireland, said problems over parades were best resolved at local level.

He declined to comment on

a call by Mr Adams earlier this week for Irish government monitors to be sent to all flashpoint parades. Meanwhile, a major security

operation was mounted in Londonderry last night when police and troops launched a hunt for an IRA bomb. The "explosive device" may have been abandooed in the nationalist Creg-

Mr Adams added: "The onus gan area up to three days ago. however, should out be on the said the RUC. المكذا من الأصل

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Parents to oppose children's bus ban

Michael Streeter

Parents of pupils stopped from using a company's buses because of unruly behaviour have launched a petition to get

Yesterday pupils of King Richard Sec-ondary School, Portsmouth, whose behav-iour has been likened to that of the fictional the ban overturned. St Trinian's girls, enjoyed their last trips oo the Provincial Bus Company's routes before the week-long ban starts on Monday.

The company said it decided to impose the "trial" ban after an increase in violence and vandalism in which drivers reported windows smashed, emergency exits opened and money stolen.

Colin Yorwerth, the company's operations director, said there had been an incident yesterday morning when two children had thrown coms at a bus window. "I understand the school are looking into it and may have the names of those involved."

He said the firm had lost some customers because of the trouble, but was prepared to risk losing the income from the children to ensure safety. I am really concerned that somebody could get badly hurt. Safety of the passengers - and of the drivers - is my main priority," he said. The ban, which affects six routes io the Cosham and Pauls-

grove area, would be reviewed at the end of next week when they would consider any further action, he added.

Pareots have received a letter from the school's head teacher informing them their children will not be able to use Provincial buses our week.

Mr Peter Warburton, said the school had made a great effort to improve pupils' behaviour oo buses and had taken disciplinary action against some. In his letter he con-ceded the han would affect innocent childreo hut said he supported the decision to try and eradicate "anti-social behaviour". Parents have claimed the company is

overreacting and some are threatening to keep their children off school rather than see them face a long walk.

Margaret Whittaker, 37, from Pauls-

grove, said she was planning to start a peition against the move. "I am really worried. My daughter Tina

is 12 years old. It is a 40-minute walk and anything could happen. I am a single parent living with my dad and I can't drive. I will worry myself sick.

The ban does not affect school buses which provide free transport for children travelling from further afield, though the company had reports of trouble on these routes yesterday.

Giants of computer games to join battle

The two biggest names in the world of computer games consoles have started a battle to win the hearts of the nation's games

Sony, market leader for the last year with its PlayStation console, yesterday announced a big price cut, the day before ri-val Ninteodo launches a new

flagship product. Sony's PlayStation console will drop in price to £129.99, down from £199.99, from 24 March, oearly a month after Nintendo's N64, priced at about £250, hits the shops.

One industry expert warned that sales of the N64 were likely to be but by "Buzz Lightyear syndrome", after the Toy Story character that became many childreo's must-have present last Christmas - only to disappear from shelves in the rush to

Only 20,000 N64 units have been shipped to the UK in advance of today's launch.

"It might well be Buzz Lightycar syndrome," said Marcus Hawkins, editor of Games-Master magazine. "Price is going to be a major factor in the war between Nintendo and the other manufacturers. The Sega Saturn and Sony

PlayStation have become very mainstream. There is a lot of expectation and excitement about N64, but I think it will appeal more to the older, hardened games fan than to young kids." Sony company executives said the price cut was part of an tempt games players away from the No4. aggressive price war designed to

A lawyer who issued formal

complaints against detectives

and was "maliciously prosecut-

ed by them is to receive

£45,000 damages after a police apology, a High Court judge was

told yesterday. Legal executive Hazel Jones.

33, sued the Chief Constable of

Essex for false imprisonment,

malicious prosecution, defama-

tion, malicious falsehood and conspiracy for the "anxiety, dis-

tress and humiliation" she suf-

isfaction of her claims.

prosecution.

"Her reason for bringing this

actioo was to vindicate her

good name and reputation, and

to remove any remaining

doubts which may linger as to

the validity of her arrest and

The police chief was not represented at the hearing when a

statement read out in court de-

scribed the "oppressive, arbitrary

a client.

"Production (of PlayStations) is now running at 1 million units per month. This capacity gives us the opportunity to market PlayStation at an aggressive mass-market price point, bringing in a wider range of consumers," said. UK managing director Ray Magnire.

Also in next month, many older PlayStation games titles will drop in price to as little as £20. The move is seen as a direct attack at Nintendo, whose N64 game titles cost between

A launch party for the N64 side Studios in Hammersmith,

Bob Monkhouse compèred the event and the guests in-cluded pop groups, television stars from various soap operas and sundry Gladiators.

A spokeswoman for Ninten-do said: "It's fair to say that 20,000 (N64 units) on the first day won't be enough, but the volume in sales in America and Japan has been so great that they just cannot make them fast enough. They are now on maximum overdrive to meet the expected sales levels."

Another 15,000 machines will arrive within a week and a further 140,000 by the end of May. The flagship game title is Super Mario 64, selling for £59,99.

Two other games will be available immediately, Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire (£59.99) and Pilotwings (£49.99). A fourth game, WaveRider, will be released later costing £54.99.

and unconstitutional" miscon-

duct of his officers, who kept Ms

Jones in custody for four hours.

ing that the policemen involved

had since been promoted and had moved from Chelmsford

police station. None had faced

demonstrate the extent of the

wrong done to me," she said outside court.

April 1992 on suspicion of dis-

Ms Jones was arrested in

disciplinary action, she said. "The amount of the damages

Ms Jones said after the hear-

Lawyer wins

police damages

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fered when she was acting for honestly handling stolen property after a client, suspected by The actioo, launched in Janthe police of burglary, brought a bag to her Chelmstord office. The client had been asked by uary 1994, was settled when the Chief Constable issued her with an apology and accepted the arpolice to bring the bag to Chelmsford police station. A derest should not have taken place. Her counsel, Ben Emmerson, tective told Ms Jones she would told Mr Justice French: "In have to make a statement about addition, the Chief Constable how she came into possession has offered to pay £45,000 m satof the bag, but she said she could not supply evidence against her own chent.

The plaintiff was removed from the firm's offices under police escort and in full view of the firm's staff," said Mr Emmerson. She was charged with handling stolen property, photographed, fingerprinted and released on ball, but the charge was dropped a month later.

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Drug clinic plan gazumped by worried village

Residents of a tiny North York-shire village were so horrified at plans to open a drug and alco-hol rehabilitation centre in their midst that they raised more than £100,000 in three days in a bid

to buy the property themselves. Villagers in Burton Leonard set about raising the eash after hearing that contracts were about to be exchanged on the Crown House nursing home on the village green.

The charity Addiction Reto turn the whitewashed property, which is opposite the vil-lage primary school, into a centre for 16 ex-addiets.

But after objections to planners failed, the villagers hastily organised a meeting at which they pledged to go without luxuries and hand over their savings in a last-minute attempt to

Within three days more than £100,000 had been pledged by 50 families in the village, which

immediately made an offer. which is now being considered, and if it is accepted they hope to exchange contracts by the beginning of next week.

Post office owner Gerlinde Godber said: "This is a very quiet village and we were concerned for the safety of the children and everyone else. It was never Not In My Back Yard - it was just not the ideal spot for it.

"We started raising the money on Sunday and we were in a position to make an offer on Tuesday. It was incredible. We had to move rapidly

and the whole village pulled to-gether. I'm not surprised we made it. I'm proud to be able to live here."

The villagers plan to sell the property if they outbid the charity, which had been due to exchange contracts yesterday. Charity spokesman Kenneth

promising to back out of the deal if they found another buyer and pay the charity's costs which amount to several

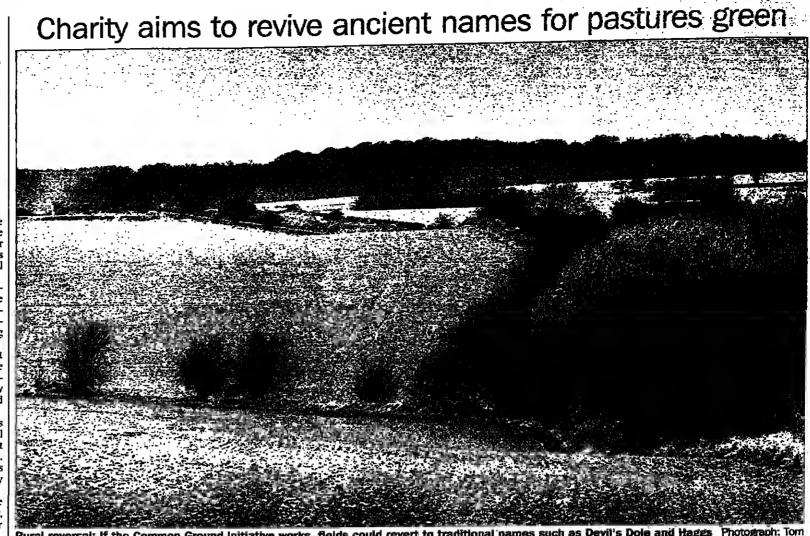
thousand pounds.

He said: "It's not my intention or the intention of the charity to upset people anywhere - we don't want to frighten ladies or worry young mothers. "I find the situation sad but

at the same time I can't blame the villagers - they re as fear-ful of the problem as anybody else. People do not understand our business. They hear the word drug

and they get very fearful because drugs is the worst problem in our society today. But it's a problem that has to be tackled by somebody

Mr Eckersley said that the charity, which is based in Dover, was already looking at other Eckersley, 69, said he had writ- properties in Yorkshire.



Jro

NEW LABOUR'S EARLY PLEDGES ARE

It doesn't add up, Mr Blair

The assisted places scheme makes it possible for children from low-income families to attend indapendent schools. Killing this scheme would achieve nothing. In fact, it would take seven years to phase it out, by which time New Labour would still be £265 million short of the money they need to cut class sizes. (Source: Institute of Public Finance) Meanwhile they would have damaged the education of up to 65,000 poor children. (The average child in the scheme comes from a family with an income of only £10,900.) Do these children really benefit? They certainly do. They achieve results up to 3 grades higher at A-level (Source: London School of Economics)

These tangible rasults would be thrown away simply because of prejudice againsl

non-State education. Frankly, this kind of thinking ia as out of date as Clausa Four. Most Labour voters want success not envy. That's why 55% of them are in favour of the assisted places schame and only 27% are against it. (Source: MORI)

For the sake of some of Britain's most promising children, help us persuada New Labour to abandon this policy before the election. We have nothing against a New Labour government - just this pointless policy. Plaase let us pasa on your views to your MP. Write to us at Friends of Independent Schools, 56 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AG.

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Past returns to reclaim our fields of dreams

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Devil's Dole, Handkerchief tation, invention and subtlety Croft and Seven Men's Mowth are names of what? Maybe the last contains just a bit of a giveaway to ageing campfire singers. Haggs. Skirt and Vicar's Hatchet are three more of the same.

Townies can be forgiven for bafflement at the words. But it would be interesting to know how many agri-businessmen or East Anglian prairie farm managers recognise them as traditional field names.

The environmental charity Common Ground today calls for a revival of field names as part of a move away from intensive farming to a more holis-Ground could be hurnt on to the five-bar gate so that the visitor knows this is a field with a cbaracter and history, not just a commodity.

Most farmers will regard the group's Manifesto for Fields as an idealised urban vision of the countryside, owing more to John Constable than the production of food for a nation of 58 million. But Common Ground says it is time for a popular debate about fields, how they should be used, what we want them to look like, and whether it is sensible for the taxpayer to be pouring in a subsidy

of £3.3bn a year. Grants to farmers bave encouraged most of the detrimental changes to the land, the charity claims. Some 97 per cent of hay meadows have gone, along with 80 per cent of chalk and limestone downland and 209,000 miles of hedges. Populations of grey partridges, lapwings and skylarks have

plummeted. Common Ground's main- a boundary: Vicar's Hatchet -

written history, carved clearings in the wild wood; the accumulation of practical experimenextending over generations. Yet under our gaze this rich combining of culture and nature has been smoothed and sprayed out of existence in half a life-

They want a shift away from the field as a factory, soaked in pesticides and fertilisers, 10 wildlife-friendly places where livestock can find contentment under a shady tree or crops are grown organically.

Farming should only be subsidised if it produced "wbolecultural importance of fields and improved conditions for farm tic way of working the land. workers, the group says. And Midsummer Levs or Saffron food should be grown for local markets, cutting out the costs and pollution of long journeys.

It is not an anti-farmer manifesto and cites the high suicide rate among farmers who are inrector of Common Ground, is it impractical. "The BSE crisis has taught us a lot about short cuts and cheap food, meanwhile organic farmers we have talked to are rushed off their feet with demand."

Battlefields, fields that have inspired authors, festival fields and field springs should all be revered, along with the poetic names given centuries ago, though time and the plough may have obscured their meaning.

The ones given above translate as follows: Devil's Dole unproductive or difficult land; Handkerchief Croft - small piece of land; Seven Men's Mowth - meadow with work for seven men; Haggs - place cleared of trees; Skirt - land on festo says: "Fields are our un- land assigned to the parson.

Suicide theory over 39-floor fall

Michael Streeter

Police in Brazil believe a 31vear-old British managen ent consultant who fell to her death from the 39th floor of a luxury botel may have committed suicide.

The body of Katrina Dunleavy, 31, who was on a business trip to Rio de Janeiro for the London-based accountants trip.

Gilda Antao, the local British staff at the five-star Meridien Hotel earlier this week. According to local police, a day before her death Ms. Dunleavy had been removed from the "dangerous" out-of-bounds roof terrace from which she is believed to have fallen.

Yesterday staff at KPMG were shocked at the death of their colleague, who had been with the firm for three years. A spokesman said: "It is a tragic loss to her family and to all her colleagues in the firm. She was a very professional person, she was a good operator and highly thought of. We are saddened by this loss."

The spokesman added that the dead woman, who was single, had been on a normal as-

she bad visited on business before. They could not speculate on what may have caused the

Ms Dunleavy, who was originally from Liverpool, and who specialised in the telecommunications industry, had travelled with two colleagues to Rio last

pro-consul said a post-mortem examination had been completed but its findings have not been made public. We do not know the exact details of her death but we have been in contact with her family," she said. Arrangements are being made to hring her back to Britain."

The terrace from which she is thought to have fallen in the early hours of Wednesday is an emergency exit and cannot be locked, but there is a sign in three languages telling guests to stay away because it is dangerous. A police spokesman told reporters: "The investigation points toward suicide, but we are waiting for the forensic and coroner's reports to close the

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Political Correspondent

Harvey Proctor, the former Conservative MP could face prosecution for failing to sub-mit accounts on his shirt shop

for the past two years.

Thirteen high-profile Tories including the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, bought shares in Cottonrose Lord Archer, the former Conservative Party vice-chairman, was also among the investors who helped Mr Proctor to set up his shop in south-west Lon don after he was forced out of Parliameo: 10 years ago:

When it last published its fig-ures in March 1994, it was £150,000 in debt. Companies House has confirmed that if Mr Proctor does not deliver the past two years' accounts by April 4 he is likely to be prosecuted under the Companies Act. The case would be heard in a magistrates court where the maximum fice for failing to submit accounts is £5,000. If Mr Proctor does file accounts in time, he is still liable for a possible late payment penalty of £1,000.

Among the other investors in the company are several who have since faced scandals themselves. Tim Yeo, member for Suffolk South, was embarrassed by revelations that he had an illegitimate child, while Neil Hamilton, MP for Tatton, faced allegations that he accepted



submitted accounts for his shop in Richmond because difficult

trading conditions had left him

unable to pay his accountant.

Many other small companies had the same problems, he

"It has been quite a struggle to survive. It has not been nelped by press comment every six months that we are closing

company as though it was ICI. Take your tanks off our lawn,

1987 after facing court charges

relating to his homosexuality.

Neil Hamiltoo and his wife Christine, who both hold shares

Mr Hamiltoo sustained a broken cose when he tried to

down," he said.

was deselected by Leicestershire North West constituency after losing a libel case over allegations that he was

Other Tory MPs who put money into Mr Proctor's company included Mark Lennox-Boyd, David Heathcoat-Amory, Richard Shepherd, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Philip Oppenheim and Michael Brown. Another investor was David Lightbown. the a former Conservative whip who died last year.

Leapsquare, the public affairs consultancy run by the MP for Welwyn Hatfield, David Evans, also put mooey into the

Mr Proctor, former MP for



pier mache statue of the Queen Mother at the Rush on Paper (People-Sized People in Paper) exhibition Stuck on you: Visitors inspecting a p by Peter Rush at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

No end to beef ban says EU commissioner

British hopes of securing an early end to the beef ban were dealt another severe blow yesterday wheo Emma Bonino, Consumer Affairs Commissioner, ssion was "oot eveo thinking about lifting the embargo."

Ms Bonino, a sharp-talking Italian who is better known in Britain as Minister for Fisheries Policy, has recently been appointed by the Commission to oversee public health in the wake of the heef scandal. She looks likely to prove a tougher opponent wheo it comes to lifting the embargo than Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissiooer.

A champioo of individual and consumer rights throughout her life, Mrs Bonino told the French newspaper, Le Monde: It is out of the questioo to weaken the embargo. The truth is we are oot ever thinking about lifting the emhargo. And we will not be thinking about for

a long time." The commissioner's comments come just four days after Britaio submitted oew tial lifting of the embargo, along

ther eradication. Presenting the plan, Douglas Hogg, the Agri-culture Mmister, called on his partners to remember the "Florence agreement", a reference to the much-vaunted deal at last year's June summit. The agreement was presented by the Government as a "victor o justification for the "beef war" because it supposedly contained commitmeots from other European countries to a gradual lifting of the ban-

However, Britain's partners denied that there were any commitments at the time and eight mooths later they are talking as tough as ever.

The European Commissioo has oo inteotioo of recommending eveo a partial lifting of the ban until Britain can prove that every possible safeguard is in place. The Commission itself has receotly come under fierce criticism from the European Parliament for failing in its duty to monitor mad cow disease in British herds after the first alert in 1989.

Mrs Bonino's new public health post was created in part to defuse criticism from the Parliament and to reassure member states that no such

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Media warned on Bridgewater confession by the fourth de-feodant, Patrick Molloy, who

The senior judge in the Bridge-water Three case yesterday stressed that oone of the convictions had been quashed and nooe would be unless and until the Court of Appeal was satisfied it was unsafe.

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Lord Justice Roch was responding to "inaccurate" re-porting in the media of last Friday's hearing, when the men, convicted 17 years ago of murderiog oewspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, were released on bail. One of the three, James Robinson, and relatives of cousins Vincent and Michael Hickey were in court vesterday. They heard the judge say that if, at the end of the full appeal hearing next month, the court concluded the convictions were not safe, "then we will quash them and the presumption of innocence in favour of all unpersons is re-established*

The judge said most media coverage last week was accurate, but some was not, so it was necessary to reiterate what the court said "in the hope that in future all reports and not merely some will have the accuracy that court reporting demands'

"It is in our view right that the public, the appellants and the family of the murdered boy should have the opportunity to learn precisely how this fresh evidence came to light, what its significance is and also to know what further evidence there may be." The court would then go on to consider the effects of

died in prison, had been ob-tained by a trick. If that evidence

was accepted, it would lead to the quashing of his convictioo.

The court had then said:

of the other convictions. Describing the court's function, the judge said it was not a court of inquiry or royal commission. It was concerned with what weot wrong in the investigation and trial and the effect on the safety of the convictions, not with why things went wrong. It would not inquire into, for instance, which individuals were responsible for non-disclosure of evidence that might have helped the defence, or what other person or persons might

all this evidence on the safety

have committed the murder. But the court did have pow er to refer any evidence of such it would hear evidence from scientific experts indicating that a For further information call 0345 111 888

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British movie moguls line up for the riches of Camelot

Stars come out in force to support film-makers' bids for slice of £156m lottery cake

Marianne Macdonald Arts Correspondent

Elion John and Ewan McGregor were among the stars who lined up behind film companies vesterday to bid for a slice of the £156m of lottery money being made available to make British feature films.

Intended to help overcome the fragmented and ad hoc character of the domestic film industry, the Arts Council lottery scheme will award up to £8m each year to four franchises", or consortia, for six

The initiative follows a consultants' report which suggest-ed that the Arts Council was "in a unique position to be the catalyst of change" within the British film industry by means of its lottery income.

There is no question of Hollywood-style budgets, however: runds will be limited to £2m per film and the required private funding is unlikely to push that much beyond fom.

The Arts Council hopes to recoup its grants from film profits - but will plough such income back into more productions.

The bids which went in for yesterday's opm deadline included one Irom Studio Pictures, a BBC-backed consortium led by its former head of single drama, George Faber.





Movie millions: Elton John and Helena Bonham Carter are supporting a film industry bid for lottery cash, some of which would be used to fund productions starring old favourites like Rupert the Bear

who shot to fame in Trainspotting, and who has set up a talent company with his costar from that film. Jonny Lee Miller, to develop opportunities for actors in Britain's film

industry

It boasts the support of BBC who directed Four Weddings Films, and Ewan McGregor, and a Funeral, David Partin, who produced The Madness of King George, and Granada

Another bid came from Partners in Film, a heavyweight consortium which includes Elton John's Rocket Pictures and Also hopeful were UK Film-works, headed by Mike Newell, famed for hits such as A Room

with a View and Howards End. It says it will make 34 films in the six years. A fourth consortium, Double

egative, is led by Working Title Films, the successful British production company which catapulted Hugh Grant to fame in Four Weddings And A Funeral. Its partners include Revolution Films - formed by producer

Michael Winterbottom, who made the feature film *Jude --* and The Jones Company.

Pathé Pictures offered a heavyweight application hoast-ing producers Simon Chan-ning-Williams (Naked, Secrets and Lies), Jake Eberts of Allied Films (Driving Miss Daisy, Chariots of Fire, Dances With Wolves),

Andrew Eaton and director Norma Heyman (Dangerous Liaisons), Lynda Miles of Pandora Productions (The Comiments) and Sarah Radclyffe

(My Beautiful Laundrette). Penzance Films accounted for another hid from the consortium including Metrodome Group, the production company responsible for Leon The Pig mer, and the British directors

Nicholas Roeg (Don't Look Now, The Man Who Fell To tions wants funding to make Earth) and Ken Russell (Women In Love, Tommy).

The Children's Film and Television Foundation also applied to service "one of the most neglected areas of the British film industry - the children's and family film Meanwhile, United Anima-.

feature-length cartoons star-ring Rupert the Bear, Rumpelstiltskin and Odysseus. The Arts Council received 400 initial applications. The winning hids will be chosen by

its film advisory panel headed by Charles Denton, the BBC's former head of drama group.





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extracts of games involving the

Bomb fanatic boy locked up for four years

A rebel schoolboy bomb-mak- Austell. Four days later he set vice fitted to it." The teenager er with a "disturbing obses- off a homemade bomb in a bission" with explosives was yesterday ordered to be detained in a secure unit for four years. The 15-year-old, who cuit tin" on wasteground near been carrying could "shake a homes in Par. A resident said few windows" in the right conditions. He said the booby-trap which was 15 yards away. There in the drawer would have caused cannot be named for legal rea-sons, made and set off a num-high and shrapnel landed in a off. He collected shrapnel from ber of devices, and had also booby-trapped his bedroom. Truro Crown Court heard.

He had papers relating to the Oklahoma bomb massacre, m which he had a "macahre interest", said prosecutor Geoffrey Mercer. The boy, from the St Blazey area of Comwall. was sentenced, having pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to two charges of making an explosive substance and to possessing a prohibited weapon.

He also asked for two other offences, of making an explosive substance, and stealing chemicals, to be taken into consideration. Judge Graham Cottle told the boy: "It is clear from the evidence in this case you have developed a very disturbing obsession with explosives. It is clear at this stage the risk of your reoffending is very high, making it unsafe and wrong to pass a sentence which allows you, at the moment, your liberty."

Mr Mercer said that on 22 July the boy was given a 12month conditional discharge for setting off a small explosive device outside a nightcluh in St garden, said Mr Mercer.

The teenager set off another device in Par on 3 August and six days later went voluntarily to the police with his mother, the court was told. Chemicals which could be used to make explosives were taken from his hedroom and destroyed. He told the police he learnt about ex-plosives from school chemistry lessons, and by experimenting. He "perfected" explosive de-

vices and told the police he had set off four others. The boy also said he had told other youngsters how to make explosives, said Mr Mercer. While on bail, he was stopped by police in Lostwithiel on 16 October, carrying a small bag. He said it contained a bomb which he was going to sell to a man. An "improvised shotgun

was also found on the boy, said Mr Mercer. A Royal Navy team was called to make the device safe. At the boy's home items for making explosives were found, said Mr Mercer, who added: "One of the drawers in his hedroom was hoohytrapped, with an explosive de-

told police the device he had his devices to see how far they had gone and had tried to make

a Semtex substitute, but never found a formula. Counsel for the defence, Barry van den Berg, said the boy vas 14 when he started to "dahble m explosives". He was lonely and had been rebelling for a long time against authority. His actions gave him a "notoriety" among friends, which for him was "heady stuff". He had used his intelligence in a "destructive way", said counsel.

A psychiatrist, Georgina Redding, said the boy, who suffered from a conduct disorder and mood swings, got "a huzz" and "feeling of omnipotence" from what he did. There was a "mismatch" between the boy and his parents, who were in a strict regious sect.

The boy's father told the court his son became "haughty and disobedient" and had taken on the "destructive side" of science.

·He said they were a close family but admitted losing parental control in the summer

Match-fixing trial jury out on Monday

allegations against three foothall stars will retire on Monday to consider its verdicts.

The former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grohbelaar, 39, the former Aston Villa and Wimhledon strik-er John Fashanu. 34, and the former Wimhledon goalkeeper Hans Segers, 35, are accused of being part of a plot to throw

Along with Malaysian husi-nessman, Heng Suan Lim, 31, alleged to be the representative of a Far East betting syndicate, they deny conspiring to give and accept corrupt payments. Adjourning the case until Monday, Mr Justice Tuckey indicated to the jury at Win-

chester that he had almost completed his summing-up and that they would retire that morning. The judge, who has spent one-and-a-half days summing up the case, told the jury yesterday that they had seen video

two goalkeepers and the

The jury hearing match fixing defence had produced expert evidence that they had done nothing untoward.

The defence rely on this evidence and you will take it into account in considering whether the prosecution have proved their case, he said. Had the prosecution heen

able to call their own expert evidence on this point, their case would have been stronger, said the judge.
"Put shortly, the defence say

what better proof can there be there was no corrupt agreement to influence the result of football matches, when no one has been able to say the goalkeepers did anything wrong. This evidence proves they never threw a game or tried to do so," said the judge.
But, he added, this evidence

was not conclusive. The prosecution said it did not prove there was not a corrupt agreement, and an agreement was proved by the fact money was corruptly given and ey was corruptly given and whether the result owed everything, little or nothing to the assistance of the corrupt player". The jury must reach verdicts on three counts.

The first charge, against Mr Lim, Mr Fashanu and Mr Segers, alleges that between 1 February 1991 and 9 November 1994, they conspired together to give and corruptly to accept gifts of money to influence or attempt to influence the out-

come of football matches. The second charge, against Mr Lim, Mr Fashanu and Mr Grobbelaar, alleges a similar conspiracy between 1 November 1992 and 9 November 1994.

Mr Grobbelaar alone demes corruptly accepting £2,000 from Christopher Vincent for improperly influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of a football match or matches.

The hearing was adjourned unto Monday.

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Rupert Cornwell Washington

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The Pentagon bopes that the conviction this week of a former paratrooper at an elite unit for a brutal double racial killing will send a powerful signal that white supremacism and neo-Nazism have no place in the beleaguered US Army.

James Burmeister, 21, a member of the \$2nd Airborne Division, was found guilty of the first degree murders of a black couple, Jackie Burden and Michael James, as they strolled down a road close to the division's base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, The sentencing phase of the trial, in which prosecutors are seeking the death

penalty, began yesterday.

According to testimony during the trial, Burmeister carried out the killings after a night's drinking with two like-minded fellow soldiers - apparently in order to qualify for a spider's web tattoo, which in some US

black person. After his arrest. white supremacist literature, weapons and a neo-Nazi flag were found in his lodgings. Other witnesses said he frequently talked of rounding up blacks and shooting them. The December 1995 shoot-

ings led to an investigation of US troops worldwide to dis-cover the influence of skinhead and other racist groups. spread, with 100 of 7,600 army soldiers admitting they had links with white hate organisations. Three per cent claimed to have been approached to join after they had enlisted, and the whole affair is doubly tranmatic for an institution that has prided itself on being one of the first to break down the barriers of racism in American society.

At the 82nd Airborne. men were sbown to have had "active, passive or former" ues with extremist groups. All have



Julia Burden, Jackie's

since been punished, most of them by dishonourable discharge. Among them were Burmeister and his co-defendant Malcolm Wright, who faces separate trial later this month, largely on the basis of evidence supplied by the third member of the trio, Randy Meadows, who has pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

The verdict has come as the Pentagon grapples with two other seemingly endemic ills of the military: the practice of "hazing", or hrutal iniliation rites for new soldiers, and widespread sexual barassment of female recruits by their supervising officers. Last month, De-fense Secretary William Cohen. vowed "zero tolerance" for bazing, after the heavily publicised ordeals of two female cadets at the previously all-male Citadel military college in Charleston, South Carolina.

Sexual harassment in army ranks is also more of a problem than ever. After a spate of cases came to light at a training ground in Maryland last year, more than 1,000 female soldiers contacted a hotline to say they had been similarly victimised. Particularly embarrassing for the Pentagon, it emerged that a member of a board set up last year to investigate sexual barassment was himself an al-

Gold casts shadow on Swiss war neutrality

Louise Jury

It is the biggest foreign policy crisis in Switzerland since the Second World War. To the outside world, the questions about the fate of Nazi gold have raised fresh suspicions about the morality of Switzerland's secretive banking system.

For the Swiss, the affair has prompted a complete re-as-: tory and shattered confidence in their neutrality.

Allegations that their postwar success was based on millions stashed away during the conflict, even that the Second World War would have ended sooner had it not been for Switzerland's willingness to trade with the Nazis, have ruffled the confident, logical Swiss and dented belief in what they regard as their good record.

Where they once prided themselves on having accepted a quarter of a million refugees fleeing persecution in the rest of Europe, they now are having explain why they rejected at least 38,000, many of them Jews sent back to the the Nazis and certain death.

Flavio Cotti, the Foreign Minister, said this week: "I'm sure ninety-nine per cent of our population which has not learned history has grown up with the conviction that the general attitude of Switzerland during the Second World War was an absolutely correct attitude." Now, he said, they were being asked to come to terms with the "negative aspects".

The initiative has come from the top. The government has appointed a commission under Professor Jean-François Bergier. It will seek, Mr Cotti said, "to re-establish the reality of that time". Professor Bergier sees the inquiry as "an opportunity to acknowledge our past so we can confront the present and the future"

The process is not only academic. Switzerland has shunned formal ties with the rest of the world, rejecting membership of the EEA in 1992 and joining United Nations organisations, but not the body itself. Now it is being forced to reconsider the

policy of isolation. Jacques Picard, a member of the Bergier commission, said the country had "lost its image" and was redefining a new one. "We have to understand that we are part of the international com-

munity," he said. With unemployment, which was previously unknown, now at almost 5 per cent, and one of the slowest growth rates in the OECD, the economic situation is also challenging the isolationism of the past.

But the process is proving difficult. Thomas Borer, chief of the government task force on the assets of victims of Nazism in Switzerland, outlimed the clash of cultures between Switzerland and its critics.

The Americans, in particular. accuse the Swiss of dragging their feet while the last Holocaust survivous are dying. Yet speed is not the Swiss way.

"We are basically watchmakers," says Mr Borer. "What we make is a very delicate watch which is going to show us very precise time. To build a watch like that takes several years."

Guilty: Paratrooper James Burmeister, 21, (left) accompanied by lawyer, Larry McGlothfin, is convicted Photograph:AP

With four different political parties in the seven-member cabinet, the constitution itself has come under fire for delaying a resolution.

"The whole system is very shaky and not good at solving problem. It's like Swiss history it is a success story as long as it is business as usual," one Swiss diplomat said.

The big banks, for instance, have just given 100m Swiss francs to a humanitarian fund for victims of the Holocaust. In a poll, only half the population believes the government should also contribute to it. So, rather than risk a referendum, politicians are awaiting initial reports from the Bergier Commission to give them reasons to do so.

6 Our Swiss system is like Swiss history a success as long as it's business as usual 🤊

Many older people find it hard to accept that their war efforts are no longer lauded. Although documents show the Germans assured Switzerland it could escape invasion, the fear of a German attack was very real to those who spent war years in forholes on the border.

The younger generation has been more willing to listen, though Lili Nabholz, the politician who steered the lifting of Swiss banking secrecy laws to aid the current investigations, fears some are irritated by foreign criticism. There has been a rise in open anti-semitism.

Swiss Jews recognise that the investigations have mel with a certain "psychological re-sistance" from their countrymen. Rolf Bloch, president of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, says they are satisfied there is movement towards solving the moral and financial questions of the war.

Mr Bloch is not given to the loud protests of the American Jewish lobby. Yet, he quietly tells stories which his fellow citizens have not wanted to hear.

In 1942, when he was 12, a young Jewish brother and sister who had escaped from Belgium were found hiding in Beme and were taken in Naively, the Swiss family told the anthorities. Suddenly, the police arrived. The teenagers were thrown out of Switzerland and died in Auschwitz.

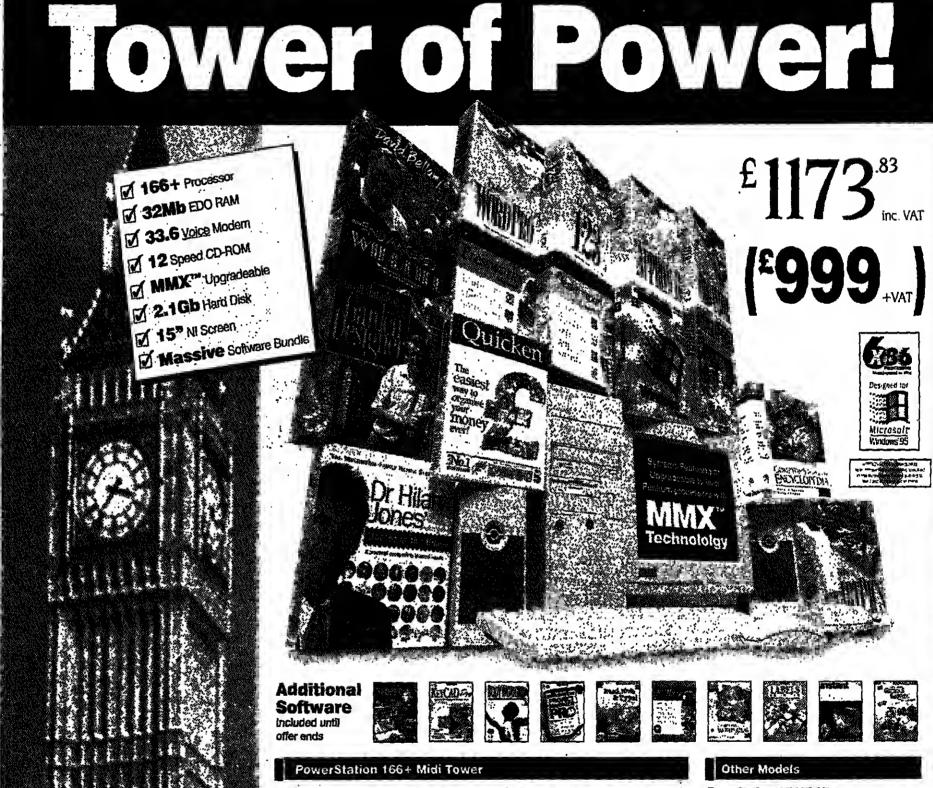
The Swiss population was against the Nazis. It does not mean they were in favour of the Jews," Mr Bloch said. "That is something we cannot forget."



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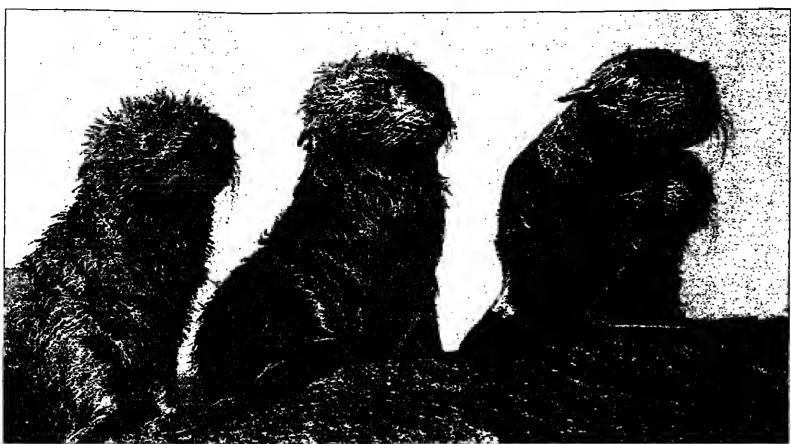
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Exposed: Oil-covered baby sea lions sitting on a rock off Punta del Este, Uruguay, following a spill from a Panamanian tanker which raground on the nearby island of Lobos earlier this month and which is threatening more than 200,000 sea lions in the area Photograph: A

Pavement artists have the drop on the City of Light

Our friend Sandra, an Irish woman married to a Frenchman, says that the wai parisien pedestrian can always be distinguished from the visitor or newcomer. The unwary outsider stares up at the startlingly elegant buildings on every side. The Parisian always looks down. He or she is, from bitter experience, scanning the pavement

ahead for dog poo.
Paris has a serious dog problem, more serious, it is said, than
any other city in the world. Partly this is because it has more
dogs - 300,000 - than any other city. But that is not all. Other cities, including other French
cities, have taken aggressive
steps to curb this urban scourge.
Paris has adopted a policy of, as

PARIS DAYS

it were, laissez-faire. It is not illegal for dogs to foul the otherwise impeccable pavements of one of the most beautiful cities known to man.

On my walk to work the other day I decided, in the name of investigative journalism, to measure the extent of the affiction. I counted 18 deposits in the first 30 yards. Walking to school with the children is a one-mile sialom course to avoid what Charlie calls, from grisly memory, the "squelchy ones".

Continuing my fearless inquiries, I uncovered several disturbing facts. Dogs leave 20 tons of faeces on the streets of Paris daily (who has weighed them, you ask. We will come to that later). An average of 650 people a year are hurt so hadly after slipping on dog shit in Paris that they have to be taken to hospital. This works out at nearly two victims a day; broken collar bones are

the most frequent injury.

The City of Paris pays £5m a year to a company, Delcaux, which operates more than 100 machines, resembling golf carts, called caninettes. Their job is to scour dog poo from the most affected pavements once or twice a day. (The normal street cleaning is supposed to take care of the gutters.) The caninettes make their most intensive rounds just after the morning rush-hour and just after the late film on television. Experience has shown that this is when owners and dogs most frequently resort to the public canine toilets, known to everyone else as the streets,

I contacted the technical director of the operation, Dominique Bellanger, who admitted it was not feasible to get around all the 1,500 miles of Parisian streets daily. His team, he said, concentrates on the "most polluted areas". (It is the Delcaux company which has measured the harvest from Parisian dogs). The canineties do a good job but, as Mr Bellanger concedes, the expectation that they will pass by encourages lazy dogowners to use the pavements, not the gutters.

not the gutters. We are used to thinking of Britain as a nation of doting dog-owners, but we have nothmg on the French. In the Bois de Boulogne on a fine Sunday, Parisians parade in their hundreds around the ornamental lakes, with every conceivable species of mutt, turning the Bois into some vast, open-air Crufts. The sentimentality which the French rarely bestow on one another is available sometimes for children and always for dogs. Paris, like California, has dog psychiatrists; even dog and cat astrologers. There are 80,000 dogs with private-bealth insurance in France.

Close to my office is a dog shop. In the window are dog mittens, fashionable dog coats, haute-cuisine dog biscuits, dog toys—including stuffed animals (pets for dogs?)—and packets of the "finest-quality straw from the Pays d'Ange" (appellation contrôlés produce for pets?).

controles produce for pets?).

There is not a pooper-scooper in sight. I inquired within. The shop did not sell them: no demand apparently, despite the

300,000 dogs living in Paris.

Over the years, committees have been formed by the town hall to study the issue, scientific studies have been commissioned, and information campaigns have been aimed at dog-owners (encouraging more fraternite and less liberte.)

Other French cities have, so to speak, stamped on the problem. Grenoble led the way in the 1980s with instant fines, prosecutions for persistent offenders, even the seizure of pets. At the same time, the city built 120 "sanitary dog spaces" and conducted a permanent civicawareness campaign.

Similar policies, as well as a tax on dog-owners, were proposed to the city of Paris as long as eight years ago. They were rejected by the then mayor, who said such "repression" would not work and would penalise the old and the poor.

old and the poor.

The mayor was, of course,
Jacques Chirac, who is notoriously soft-hearted about animals. At one point the future
president lectured dog-food

6An average of 650 people a year are hurt so badly slipping on dog shit in Paris that they have to be taken to hospital 9

manufacturers on the need to make their offerings conducive to drier and more compact dog poo. He was, it is said, reluctant to do anything which might offend so many thousands of

dog-owning voters.
Nothing much is likely to
change soon. Complaints about
dog dirt are the third most frequent reason for letter-writing
to the Paris town hall (ahead of
fear of crime). Buf this has been
true for many years now. The
Agriculture Minister, Philippe
Vasseur, will shortly present a
law to parliament on the control of pets. It is aimed mostly
at controlling savage dogs such
as pit bulls and at the better regulation of cat and dog sales. It
also proposes a free, if limited,
veterinary service for poorer pet
owners. There is no suggestion
of a licence or tax to control dog
numbers, as some had urged.

Non-dog-owning Parisians should console themselves with the wisdom of the 19th-century poet Gérard de Nerval, who provoked the dog lovers of his day by promenading with a lobster at the end of a pink ribbon. When questioned on his motives, he replied that lobsters "Know the secrets of the sea, they don't bark ..."

He might have mentioned at least one other reason, in a crowded city, to prefer a crustacean to a dog.

John Lichfield

Strikers' threat to Prado show

Elizabeth Nash Madrid

Spain's Prado museum has launched a spectacular exhibition of European art devoted to sensual pleasure. But the event prompted howls of pain from museum employees, anguished at what they call "conditions of absolute chaos".

Members of the museum's workers' committee interrupted the opening ceremonies this week by whistling and banging drums, and brandishing bamers and stickers saying "Save the Prado". They plan a series of protest actions including strikes – although their leader. Antonio Solano, reckons a work-to-rule would be sufficient to bring the museum, bousing one of the world's finest art collections, to a standstill.

More than 100 sixteenth and seventeenth century paintings, including four splendid Caravaggios as well as works by Titian and Breughel, celebrate the pleasures of the five senses. Workers say the exhibition, "improvised at the last minute", was mounted with unprece-

dented haste, causing disruption throughout the museum. They say the accumulation of temporary displays and major repairs to the dilapidated building will close dozens of rooms.

"For weeks visitors have been tripping over ladders and tool-boxes, as workers have been driven to the limit, shouting to each other, banging, causing disruption that is totally inappropriate in the Prado," complained Alfredo Pineiro, a member of the workers committee and a museum restner.

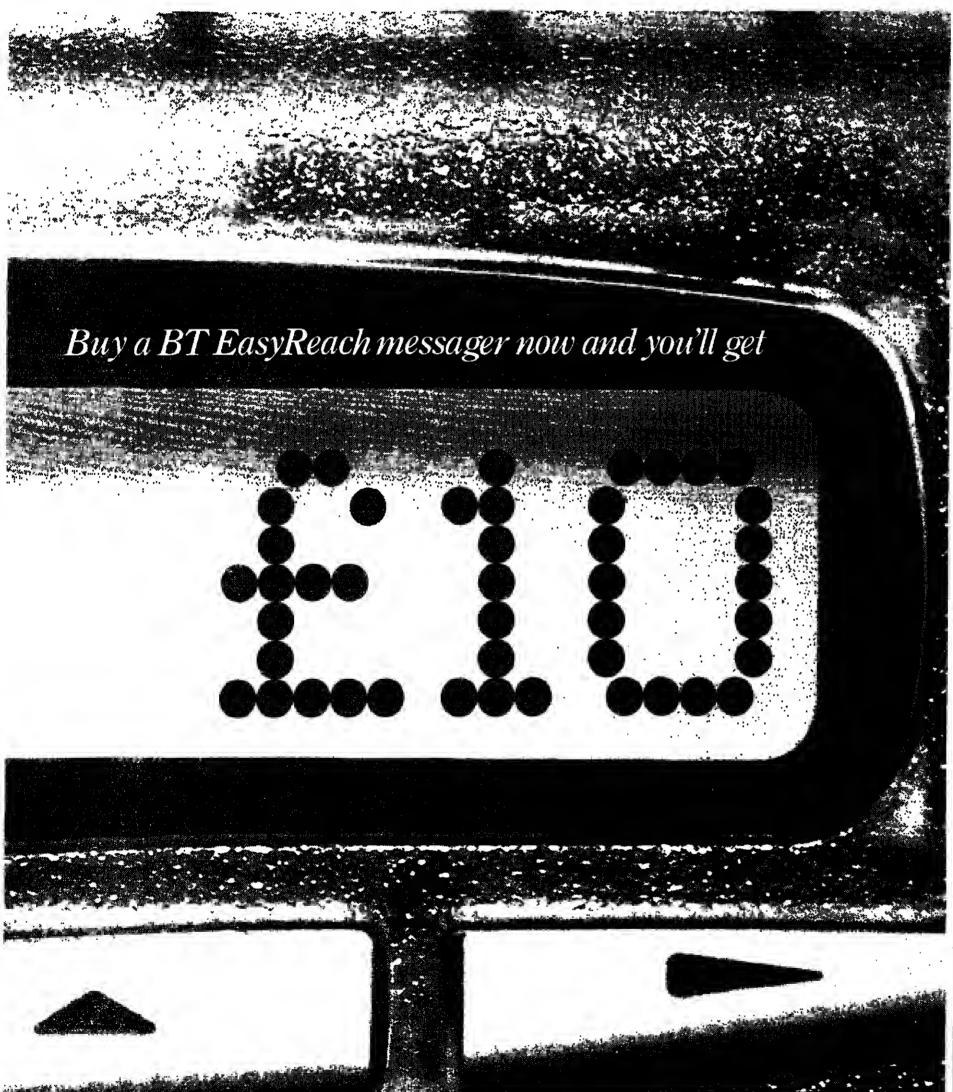
Workers who have seen their

Workers who have seen their numbers cut and wages frozen are "totally demoralised". Mr Pineiro says. They want some order to be put into the shambolic internal organisation of the flagship of Spanish culture.

It was, workers say, "madness" to mount such an ambitious project during major structural renaise

structural repairs.

A spokesman for the sponsoring bank, the BBV, said the exhibition had not figured in its plans for this year but was the result of an invitation by the Secretary of State for Culture, Miguel Angel Cortes.



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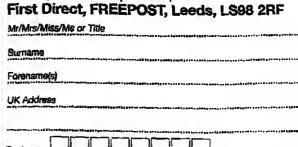
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Shameful echo of a forgotten holocaust Robert Waiting: Gaspar and Astrid Fisk reports Aghajanian at their homa in Shoreham-on-Sea, Sussex, on a tale of where they continue to fight for compensation from the Turks

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past terror and fresh injustice

For Gaspar Aghajanian, it is a matter of principle. For his wife Astrid, it all goes back to the day 82 years ago when the Turks piled the starying orphans of Armenia on top of each other in the sand and burned them alive.

"My mother saved me from the fire by pushing me under a pile of corpses," she says. "She used to tell me afterwards that when she heard the screams of the children and saw. the flames, it was as if their souls were going up to heaven.

Astrid is now 83, ber busband 85, but their battle - against another gen-eration of Turks - is contained in a thick file of correspondence in their bungalow bome in Shoreham-on-

Sea, West Sussex.
No one comes well out of those fading letters and cuttings; neither: the Turkish authorities in Cyprus who refused to compensate the Aghajanians for the property looted from their home after the 1974 Turkish invasion - on the grounds that they were of Armenian ethnic origin - nor the Foreign Office which failed to persuade the Turks to pay for their phinder, even though the Aghajamans are full British citizens...

"Deplorable," is how one Foreign Office letter - from Tim Eggar, then parliamentary under-secretary, - described Mr Aghajanian's situa-tion in 1985. But it went on to admit that his claim would not be met unless there was a political settlement

What the Aghajanians lost in Cyprus - Persian carpets, furniture, an ancient-coin and stamp collection. photographs of relatives since massacred, a piano, family letters and n large library of valuable books would only amount to a few thousand pounds. The Turks originally tried to prevent the couple from receiving compensation for their retirement home in northern Cyprus - failing only because Mr Aghajaman was paid for the property before the furks discovered that he was Armenian. But for Astrid and Gaspar. their families refugees from the Turks twice in the same century - the refusal to compensate them for their possessions remains a mark of

indignity and shame. Their story explains all. Astrid's



were shot dead at the start of the 1915 Holocaust against the Armenians, the Turkish massacre that killed at least a million and a half Armenians in what is now Turkey and Syria. Astrid retains faint memories of the long trek over the desert which the women and children were forced to make by Turkish police officers - robbed, raped, starved and burned to death

across hundreds of miles of sand. .. "At a village one night, my father, who had been deported, came to see us. He told my mother that he thought he was being allowed to say goodbye, that he would be shot with the other men. I remember my mother told me that my father's last words were: The only way to remember me [is] to look after Astrid. We never saw him again."

On the long march south, Turks.

"My mother would run from one end of the column to the other each time she saw them attacking us," Astrid says. "My grandmother died along the way. So did my newly born brother Vartkes. We had to leave him

by the roadside. One day, the Turks said they wanted to collect all the young children and look after them. Some women, who couldn't feed their children, let them go. Then my mother saw

them piling the children on top of each other and setting them on fire. My mother buried herself and me under another pile of dead bodies. Even today, I cannot stand to be in darkness or to be on my own."

Astrid's mother, who was only 18, and Kurds attacked the column of eventually carried her to a Bedouin women and children, carrying off camp and after reaching Aleppo grandfather, grandmother and nucle girls for rape and forced marriages. with the help of a Turkish officer -

she married her cousin and moved to the newly mandated territory of Palestine, now ruled by the British.

colony of Cyprus.

In 1942 Astrid met Gaspar, whose own Armenian family had lived in Palestine for generations and who

monitoring station on the island, re-

We never had any problems with the Turkish community," Astrid remembers. "Our housemaid was Turkish and we got on

very well." 6 My mother saved me from the But when the Turks invaded in 1974 - after fire by pushing me under a Greek-Cypriot coup d'itat - the Aghajanians were on the run again a pile of corpses from their traditional

> appressors. was shortly afterwards to become a "We thought at first that the Turks magistrate. Fleeing the first Arabwould be disciplined. Gaspar says. Israeli war in 1948, both took refuge They were no longer Ottomans in Jordan - where Gaspar secured and they were a Nato force. Then we British citizenship - and then moved to the still British-administered heard of a British couple who'd been beaten up in their home. That decided many of us that we should Gaspar Aghajanian worked for 22 years for the United States radio-

built for themselves on the newly in-

dependent island.

In a convoy of cars - the British actor Edward Woodward was flee-

tiring to the bungalow the couple had ing with them - the Aghajanians made their way to the British sovereign base area at Dhekelia, and thence to Britain.

British residents who managed to return to Turkish-occupied Cyprus reported that the Armenians' home had been looted, "Front door broken and house searched by army. Contents strewn everywhere ... " said one report. The British Government refused to take responsibility for British property. Another letter to the Aghajanians said that "Alas, so far as I can judge, you must regard the contents of your house as entirely lost. The house itself, it seems, has been taken over by one of the newly arrived Turkish police officers, who has apparently cleared it and hurned

all papers." Guspar eventually received £15,000 for the house. But when he demanded compensation for the

couple's possessions, he discovered

from the Foreign Office - in the words of Tim Eggar's letter - that "the Turkish Cypriot authorities had ... enacted 'legislation' to exclude claims made by those persons who were deemed to have Greek or Greek-Cypriot connections. They have now extended this exclusion to cover claims by persons deemed to be of Armenian descent." "We were never Greek Cypriots

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

and never asked for Greek-Cypriot passports." Gaspar Aghajanian savs. We were full British citizens but we were refused compensation on grounds of our ethnic background. And nothing has been done to correct this disgraceful state of affairs." When he noticed in 1990 that

Margaret Thatcher was to visit Turkey for ceremonies marking the battle of Gallipoli - on the very day that commemorates the start of the Armenian Holocaust by the Turks -Mr Aghajanian wrote to his MP. Richard Luce, to complain.

The British Government, came the reply from Francis Maude, then Foreign Office minister of state, regard the loss of so many lives (in the Armenian massacres) as a tragedy..."
But, he continued, "we have long

considered that it would not be right to raise with, or attribute to, the present Turkish government acts which took place 75 years ago during the time of the Ottoman empire." All of which begs a lot of questions for the elderly Aghajanians. If the British Government will not even discuss the Armenian Holocaust with the Turks on the grounds that the present Turkish government was

not responsible, how come they let the Turks discriminate today against British citizens of Armenian ethnic origin? Is this discrimination not directly linked to the 1915 Holocaust? And do not visiting heads of state discuss with the Germans the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews - and compensation for the survivors without blaming the present German government for the atrocities?

"Our Holocaust happened a long time ago," Astrid says, "It is easy to forget us. And Gaspar still writes his letters. But still the Turks can get away with refusing us compensation because of our ethnic origin - even though we are British."

Shot in the arm for drug drive by Mexico

Bill Cormier Associated Press

Mexico City - Mexican officials yesterday announced the cap-ture of a drug lord responsible for tonnes of cocaine entering the United States, just before a US decision on whether to recertify Mexico as an ally in the

drug war.
The attorney-general's announcement came as Congressmen urged President Bill Clinton to deprive Mexico of its official status as a fully co-operative ally in attempts to curb drug smuggling. Such status means Mexico can receive US financial aid to fight trafficking. The State Department was expected late yesterday to announce Mr Clinton's decisions on whether to certify the drug programmes of Mexico and 31 other countries. Under arrest yesterday was

Oscar Malherbe de Leon, head of the Gulf cartel, once ranked Mexico's second most powerful. A statement said prosecutors were preparing charges, in-cluding drug trafficking and possession. It did not say when he was captured. The arrest was another blow for the cartel, which grew from a backwoods marijuana operation into a booming operation under its now jailed kingpin, Juan Garcia Abrego. The statement said Mr Malherbe assumed the leadership after the arrest last year of Garcia Abrego, convicted inautumn by a US court of stouggling 15 tonnes of cocaine into the US. He was given 11 life sen-tences and fined \$128m. Mr Malherbe's arrest is the

latest in a flurry of last-minute disclosures before today's Chaton deadline to submit his drug certification recommendations to Congress With US sentiment growing to deny Mexico status as an anti-drug ally, Mex-ico's navy burned a tonne of cocaine on Thursday in a public display of its resolve to crack

down on trafficking.

North Korea reels after minister dies

North Korea has lost another. had been known to be ill for member of its old guard, adding to the picture of a crumbling regime. The country's state media reported yesterday that Kim Kwang-jin, 69, the country's vice defence minister, died of an incurable disease" on Thursday. His demise came only days after Choe Kwang, the defence minister, also apparently suc-cumbed to illness, suffering a heart attack. heart attack.

The military has a key role in the country, and in particular in underpinning the authority of Kim Jong-il, son of "Great" Leader" Kim Il-sung, who died

in North Korea. Given the lack of any reliable information. fector died after being shot. from Pyongyang, it is hard to tell

ister. South Korean media re-ported that Kim Kwang-Jin All of these departures will ac-

There has been a flurry of mdications in the past few months that all is not well in North Korea. The prime minister was replaced ealier this year - apparently for health reasons. Chief ideologue Hwang Jangyop, perhaps fearing a bout of dodgy health himself, defected to South Korea's mission in Peking, where he is still.

South Korean efforts to persuade China to allow Mr Hwang to travel to Seoul have so far yielded no progress; but South Korean officials believe he may be released as soon as But these are evidently not next week. Once there, he will bappy times for senior figures have to be on his anard. This week another North Korean de-

The defection showed that whether the cause is the winter, . near-famine and economic ruin the worsening of the food situ- are combining with a power ation, or something more sin- struggle to make North Korea

Strike out: South Korean workers marching in Seoul yesterday over a new labour law Photograph: Reuters

celerate change: they may be the product of Kim Jong-II's desire to force the pace as he tightens his grip on power. He has not yet formally inherited the vacant titles of state president and general secretary of the Work-

Michael Breen, a Seoulbased consultant on North Korea, said that Kim, having used the old guard to secure his grip on power, has now found them blocking his tentarive moves to take the country out of hostile isolation and establish dialogue with the United States. "One ex-planation, of why things are moving so slowly in North Korea is because of problems retiring the old generation." be

told Reuters news agency. In South Korea, too, these are troubling times for the ruling party. President Kim Youngsam is attempting to restore his political image after a damag-ing financial scandal and a national confrontation over a

planned new labour law. Yesterday, he began by re-placing his chief secretary and three other top advisers responsible for political, economic and general affairs. This is the start of a major reshuffle in the government and the ruling party," a Presidential spokesman said. "The cabinet reshuffle is expected early next

The President promised on Tuesday to deal sternly with anybody - even close associates and family – who was myolved with corruption, and began by banishing his son, Kim Hyun-chul. Yesterday a high-ranking gov-crament intelligence officer was also fired after he was accused of providing classified reports to the disgraced son.

The South Korean parlinment is also considering a new version of the controversial law on trade unions, but it is unlikely to be finalised before the end of next week. Unhappy with the pace of legislation, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions - which is outlawed and independent of the official trade unions - had called for a halfday strike yesterday, but the reEnquirers must be aged 18 or over, in order to saleguerd our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds, LS98 2FF. First Direct is a division of Midderd Bank Polic, Calls may be marking rescribed and/or rescribed to LOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs comprise lees of 18 per month. All feed and count details are based on the RAPICLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the RAPICLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the RAPICLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of 19 per month. All feed may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for overtrafts up 10 2004 EAR All information based on authorized overdrafts of 5 days or more per month and correct at 26 February 1997.

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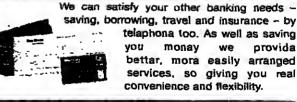
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Coastal pollution makes Australian oyster-lovers sick

Sydney — Recently I took a three-day weekend and headed out of Sydney up the coast of New South Wales to try to en-joy a short, peaceful break while the Australian summer lasted. February in Australia is like August in Europe: get-out-ol-town time. Peaceful it might have been, but there has been little peace of mind since I returned to Sydney. That is because oysters were a central part

of my holiday plan.

On the drive to the small coastal town of South West Rocks, about 250 miles north of Sydney, I pulled in to Wallis Lake to buy four dozen of the

area's famons oysters. Oysters in Australia are abundant, succulent and ridiculously cheap. For the equivalent of £3, you can have a dozen of some of the finest oysters to be found anywhere.

Buy them direct from an oyster farmer, as I did, and you will often find when you get home that he has thrown an extra dozen in the bag for no extra charge, Coastal Aborigines lived on oysters long before whites arrived. The toreshores of Sydney harbour and many towns are dotted with middens formed by centuries of dis-

carded oyster shells. Wallis Lake oysters are big business, and deservedly so. They have a taste all their own. and the farmers there have worked hard to build beyond their small community a market that now reaches across Aus-

An outbreak of hepatitis A ruins Robert Milliken's enjoyment of a favoured dish

produces about half the oysters in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state. When I arrived in South West Rocks, the ritual began. We opened the oysters ourselves, doused them with lime

first course for our dinner. "Excellent," pronounced John, "Wonderful!" said Stephen, "Mmmm," said 1. "Robert, I think you should go back to Wallis Lake and get some more," suggested Bill. We quaffed our wine and laughed.

juice and put them out as the

Barely a day after I returned to Sydney, I turned on the radio news to hear that Australia has had its worst outbreak of hepatitis A for 20 years, and that the suspected source of infec-tion is Wallis Lake oysters.

More than 400 people are now infected in every Australian state har Tasmania, six times the normal infection rate for hepatitis A over this period. About two-thirds of them ate oysters recently, and most of those appear to have come from Wallis Lake, A 77-year-old Sydney man who came down with the illness after eating sands of people prepared to turn

Wallis Lake oysters has died. The once-proud oyster husi-ness there has been devastated. The farmers have shut their doors, and millions of Wallis Lake oysters have been recalled from shops. Already, a Melbourne law firm is prepar-ing a class action to sue whoever is found to be responsible. Like many others watching

the story unfold, my calm turned to shock and then out-rage. Although the authorities have yet to prove it, there are strong signs that the infection came from sewage contamination of Wallis Lake during heavy storms in January and February. But there have been plenty of heavy storms in the past. Why now? Because some towns and villages around Wallis Lake. and its river contributory, have old sewage treatment plants or no · conventional treatment plants at all. This time, it seems, the whole system gave way under too much pressure.

The oyster scandal has raised a bigger issue for Australians of how they manage their coastal environments. Oysters have always been a symbol of the Australian good life; fresh, clean and plentiful. Yet more and more Australians are flocking to fragile coastal communities like Wallis Lake to escape city life faster than the authorities are able, or willing to manage them. If Wallis Lake can become a nogo area, what about bigger wa-terways like Sydney harbour? The scandal arose as thou-

out tomorrow for the eighth Clean Up Australia Day, Ian Kiernan, the former round-the-world sailor who initiated the voluntary event in 1989 after being sbocked by pollution in oceans he sailed through, nomoceans he sailed through, nom-inated the city's barbour as the Mr Kiernan. "Do we invite the

front line for this year's clean-

up. After years of cajoling au-

thorities, he is incensed that

sewage overflows still pour into

the harbour after beavy storms.

"The Sydney Olympic Games

rebel force last night.

Ald workers said Zairean troop re-

vances. Meanwhile, Laureot Kabila, the rebel leader, was reported to have returned from exploratory peace talks io South Africa and headed for his headquarters in Goma. Some 500 Rwandan Hutus, including officers of the former Hutu Rwandan army, have escaped to Keoya from Tingi Tingi in



Sea monster: A float for tonight's gay Mardi Gras in Sydney

Photograph: Reuters

they can't go swimming for fear of catching a disease?" As for me and my friends,

world here and then tell them

we're all still standing. I'm just putting that strange twinge in

significant shorts

Clintons owe millions to Whitewater lawyers

President Clinton and his wife are technically virtually bankrupt" as a result of \$2.3m (£1.4m) of unpaid legal bills from the Whitewater investigation, while the legal defence fund set up to raise money to cover freem is so broke it is charging reporters \$2 a head for lists of donors.

According to the fund's latest six-monthly report, it raised just \$57,523 in the second half of 1996. The

Clintons owe \$2.2m to the Williams & Connolly law firm alone for work on Whitewater. The President was "as a technical matter virtually bankrupt," his spokesman Mike McCurry said. But Mr Clinton expected to be "a young. vigorous and employable ex-president," and planned to repay his debts in full. Rupert Cornwell - Washingto

Mercenary concern over PNG

Britain has complained to Papua New Gumea about its use of mercenaries against rebels in Bougainville. Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Öffice minister, yesterday called in the High Commissioner from PNG to express his concerns. The Independent reported on Tuesday that Sandline International, a British-based company, was recruiting military advisors. Australian and New Zealand defence ministers also called on PNG to stop using

Andrew Marshal

Yeltsin moves towards mercy

President Boris Yeltsin, taking another step toward abolishing the death penalty in Russia, ordered the Russian foreign ministry yesterday to sign Article 6 of the Human Rights Convention, outlawing capital punishment. Mr Yeltsin simultaneously ordered the justice ministry to work out measures to put this into practice, but set no

Nuclear protest in Germany

About 1,000 protesters tried to block the transport of nuclear waste to a temporary bolding site in southern Germany. Police said 114 people were detained when anti-nuclear activists blocked roads and a bridge as three nuclear-waste containers were transported by truck from Neckarwestheim to nearby Walheim in Baden-Wirttemberg state. Another container was brought by train to Walheim from Grundremmingen in Bavaria. Iwo more containers also arrived from a nuclear waste reprocessing plant at La Hague in France. The containers will be loaded on a train for the trip to the nuclear waste storage site at Gorleben.

AP - Stuttgart storage site at Gorleben.

India proposes to slash tax

The Indian government proposed slashing corporate and personal income taxes with a new budget plan.

Palaniappan Chidambaram, the Finance Minister, announced that the government planned to reduce the tax on domestic corporations to 35 per cent from 40 per cent. and to abolish a tax oo dividends. Mr Chidambaram also proposed scrapping a 7.5 per cent surcharge on corporations. He added that the budget, which must be approved by parliament, would cut personal income-tax rates across the board and bring down the maximum rate to 30 per cent from 40.

Smokers' check

United States government regulations oo cigarettes that went into effect yesterday require veodors to check the identification of all cigarette-buying customers who look younger than 27. The Food and Drug Administration rules are intended to thwart mature-looking youths under the legal smoking age of 18. Failure to comply could cost store owners \$250. AP - Washington

Aid workers flee as Zairean rebels seize key triates had been ordered from Tingi refugees who fled earlier rebel ad-The UN Secretary-General, Koft remained in army hands. The UN Annan, encouraged by France, said he source added that all 2,000 Zaireao Tingi, 160 miles north-east of Kindu,

Peter Smerdon Reuters

Nairobi - Zairean rebels yesterday seized the castern town of Kindu and foreign aid workers fled a major eastern refugee camp for fear of rehel attack, aid agency and UN sources said. Rehels said they were lour miles from Tingi Tingi but were delaying an advance for the sake of refugees.

hoped to persuade member-states to reconsider sending a multinational force to eastern Zaire in light of a serious humanitarian situation.

A UN source said the rebels captured Kindu and its airport on Thursday but in Kinshasa a defence ministry
official said Kindu, a transport huh and
by the military. The aid officials said

troops in Kindu fled without a light after looting the town and were beadtowards the town of ing towards the town Katako-Kombe, 100 miles away.

Kindu had the northernmost working station on a rail line to South base for operations in the war zone. an immediate evacuation of all expa-

after camp leaders were warned that the camp would be attacked by another

inforcements and mercenaries arrived from the city of Kisangani in Tingi Tingi, backed by warplanes and heli-

dheaper

(Don't stop reading. There's more.)

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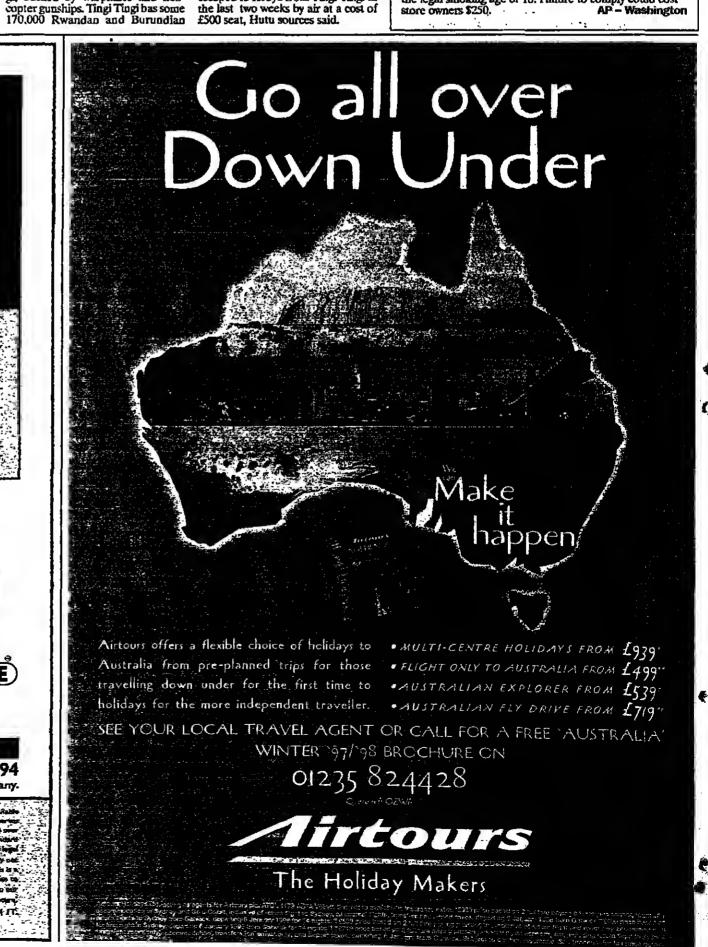
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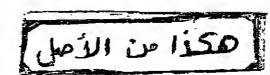
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Calm once again on the Dee Estuary, Wirral, after the local waters had been stirred up by Thursday's by-election. A fisherman repaints his boat, already sporting a touch of fashionable New Labour red. Photograph by David Rose, taken with a Nikon FM2, 160ASA film, 300mm lens at 250th second at f8. To order a print of this picture - price £14 - phone 0171-293 2534

thelongweekend

Perhaps one reason that conversations about WORDS OF THE WEEK that the notion of whiteness as "race" is. cult legacies of slavery and of colonialism is the degree to which racism's tenacious hold is manifested not merely in the divided demographics of neighbourhood or education or class, but also in

neighbourhood or education or class, but also in the process of what media expert John Fiske calls the ex-nomination of whiteness as racial identity. Whiteness is unnamed, suppressed, beyond the realm of race. Exnomination permits whites to entertain the notion that race lives "over there" on the other side of the tracks, in black bodies in the other side of the tracks. inner-city neighbourhoods, in a dark netherworld where whites are not involved.

At this level, the creation of a sense of community is a lifelong negotiation of endless subtlety. One morning, when my son was three, I took him to his pre-school. My son ran straight to a pile of Lego and proceeded to work. I crossed the room and put his lunch box in the refrigerator, where I encountered a little girl sitting at a table beating a mound of clay into submission with a plas-

"I see a mominy," she said to me cheerfully.
"That must mean your little boy is bere some, "Yes, he's bere," I answered, thinking how sweetly precocious she was, "there, he's over by

She strained to see around the bookcases. "Oh yes," she said, "now I see that black face of his." I walked away, without responding, enraged and how can one be so enraged at an innocent child? - yet, not knowing what to say just then, rushing to get the jaggedly dangerous broken glass of my emotions out of the room.

I remember being three so well. Three was the age when I learnt that I was black, the coloured kid, monkey child, different. What made me so angry and wordless in this encounter 40 years later was the realisation that none of the little white children who taught me to see my blackness as a mark probably ever learnt to see themselves as white. In our culture, whiteness is rarely marked in the indicative - there! - sense of my bracketed blackness. And that majoritar-



Pat Williams, left, professor of law at New York's Columbia University, was attacked for her views and verbosity when it was announced she was to be this year's Reith lecturer. Here is an extract from her first talk this week

ian privilege of never noticing oneself was the beginning of an imbalance from which so much, so much else flowed.

But that is hard to talk about, even now, this insight acquired before I had the words to sort it out. Yet, it is imperative to think about this phenomenon of closeting race - which I believe is a good deal more widespread than these small examples. In a sense, race matters are resented and repressed in much the same way as matters of sex and scandal. The subject is considered a rude and transgressive one in mixed company ~ a matter whose observation is sometimes inevitable, but about which, once seen, little should be heard nonetheless. Race thus tends to be treated as though it were in a specially deli-cate category of social infirmity, so called, like extreme obesity or disfigurement. Every parent knows a little of this dynamic, if in other contexts.

"Why doesn't that lady have any teeth?" comes the child's piping voice. "Why doesn't that gentleman have any hair?" and "Why is that little boy "Sshhh," comes the anxious parental remon-strance, "the poor thing can't belp it. We must all

pretend that nothing's wrong."

And thus we are coached, upon pain of pun-

ishment, not to see a thing. Better be sure the par-ent faces an ethical dilemma in that moment of childish vision unrestrained by social nicety. On the one hand we rusb to place a limit on what can he said to strangers and what must be withheld for fear of imposition, or of burting someone's feelings. As members of a broad society, we respect one another by learning not to inflict every last intimate prying curiosity we may harbour upon everyone we meet.

That said, there remains the problem of how or whether we ever answer the question, and that is the dimension of this dynamic that is considerably more troubling.
"Why is that man wearing no clothes, mummy?"

pipes the childish voice once more. And the parent panies at the complication of trying to explain. The naked man may be a nudist or a psychotic,

or perhaps the emperor of the realm, but the silencing that is passed from parent to child is not only about the teaching of restraint, it is calculated to circumnavigate the question as though it had never been asked.

"Stop asking such silly questions."

A wall begins to grow around the forbidden gaze. For we all know - and children best of all -when someone wants to change the subject, and

creativity of ignorance and wild imagination.

Again, I do believe that this unfortunate negotiation of social difference has much in common with discussions about race. Race is treated as though it were some sort of genetic leprosy or a biological train wreck. Those who privilege them-selves as "unraced" - usually, but not always, those who are white - are always antiously maintaining that it doesn't matter, even as they are quite husy feeling pity, no less, and thankful to God for their great good luck in having been spared so intolerable an affliction.

Meanwhile, those marked as "having race" are ground down by the pendular stresses of having to explain what it feels like to be you - why are you black? why are you black? why are you black? over and over again. Or alternatively, placed in a kind of conversational quarantine of muteness in which any mention of racial circumstance reduces all sides to tears, fears, fisticuffs and other

paroxysms of unseemly anguish.

This sad habitual paralysis in the face of the foreign and the anxiety producing. It is as though we were all skating across a pond that is not quite thoroughly frozen. Two centuries ago, or perhaps only a few decades ago, the lake was solidly frozen. And if, for those skating across the surface, things, seemed much more secure. It was a much more dismal lot for those whose fates were frozen at the bottom of the pond.

Over time, the weather of race relations has warmed somewhat and some few of those at the bottom have found their way to the surface. We no longer hold our breath and we have even learnt to skate. The noisy racial chasm still yawns darkly beneath us all but we few brave souls glide gingerly above upon a skim of hope. Our bodies made light with denial. The black pond so dan-gerously and thinly iced with conviction that talk-ing about it will only make things worse.

The Reith Lectures, 'The Genealogy of Race: Towards a Theory of Grace'. The next talk is 'The Pantomirue of Race', on Radio 4, Tuesday, 8.30pm

INSIDE

John Walsh meets **Lesley Garrett**

... who wants to talk about anything but opera page 3

The enigma of Albert Speer

Charming, upwardly mobile, but unfortunately a Nazi page 7

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Why do more people go back to Cyprus than anywhere else in the Med? NOBODY EVER GOES JUS

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Relaxing in another dimension

A new style of jigsaw may be a refuge from daily stress, says William Hartston

usi suppose, for a moment, that you were looking for a pastime that provided a real antidute to the stresses of everyday life. First, it would have to be non-competitive - bridge, backgammon and chess are all very well as comparatively harmless outlets for our innate aggression, but they can hardly be described as therapeutic; and as for such ostensibly fun games as Cluedo or Monopoly, we all know how they can bring out the worst personality traits of the more determined practitioners.

So competitiveness is out, but we do need something that is both slow and absorbing in order to offer a complete break from real life and occupy our attention for long enough to wind down from everyday pressures. Finally, it has to he perceived as something worth doing, so must offer a satisfying goal to serve as a reward for the effon involved. And if that goal can be achieved by a number of people acting in co-operation, then all

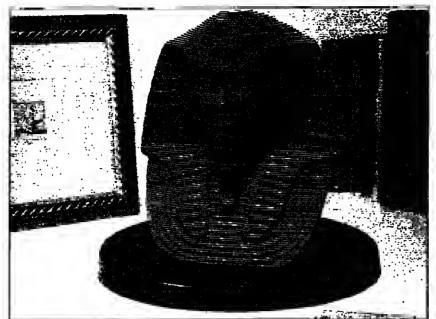
Dr Jenny Cozens, who is a clinical psychologist and Principal Research Fellow at Leeds University, has identified something that she believes may satisfy all the above criteria: Jigsaws, preferably three-dimensional ones. Endorsing the new "Puzz 3D" range from Waddingtons, Dr Cozens says: "Completing puzzles can be beneficial to many people, but the sheer complexity of 'Puzz 3D' makes it mind-absorbing, which can be an antidote

Hang on a moment, though. Don't jigsaws fuel frustration and lead to tetchy outbursts? "Has anyone seen a green piece with a red line through it I had it a moment ago oh for goodness sake who's been knocking pieces on to the floor no don't put your cup down there you clumsy oaf now you'll just have to put all that corner together again now where's that green piece gone again?"

As Dr Cozens adds: "The benefits of 'Puzz 3D' may also depend on personality rype – for example, practical people are often good at puzzles, while those who are planners rather than doers will benefit from the concentration the puzzle requires." The delayed gratification offered by jigsaws, slowly and tangibly working towards the final achievement of finishing the puzzle makes it particularly finishing the puzzle, makes it particularly good for the "sensing" people among Jungian personality types. In contrast to modern computer games, which provide achievement overload through an orgy of zapping and powing, the sedate pace of jigsaws can teach children patience. And not only children. In an increasingly fastmoving society, when even the trad-itionally relaxing lunch hour has fallen victim to the ever more demanding pace of life. Dr Cozens believes that we may

Some Items from Waddingtons 'Puzz 3D' range (left to right): the US Capitol, the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, the Taj Mahal. The scale and the state of the scale reflects relative sizes of the huildings, not the puzzles. The 4ft-tall, 1,483-

piece Big Ben is the most challenging



'The Pharaoh', computer-scanned by Really Useful Games and cut into 140 slices

all benefit from an activity that encourages patience and an appreciation of the joys of delayed reward. "We only have to go shopping to see how impatient we have all become." she says.

Whatever reservations we may have about computer games, however, the successful launch of two different ranges of three-dimensional jigsaws owes everything to recent technological improvements. The real puzzle, for Paul Gallant, the inventor of 'Puzz 3D', was to find a way to hold a three-dimensional jigsaw together without clue or pins. The solution came from the unlikely source of British Petroleum, which was certainly not thinking primarily of jigsaws when it produced just the right type of poly-ethylene foam to enable the puzzles to hold together at their dovetail joints.
"Sculpture Puzzles", the new range

from Really Useful Games, owes its inspiration to computer scanning techniques. Three-dimensional objects, from works of art such as the Venus de Milo or Rodin's The Kiss to commonplace things such as a head or a clock, are scanned by a computer that can then produce a series of cross-sections that pile up to to be derived from the new ranges can make the original object. to be derived from the new ranges can only be La Recherche du Puzzle Perdu. make the original object. The jigsaws are intelligently designed

to offer the puzzler a choice of levels of difficulty. If you just want to put it together. There "cheat"

numbers

let you, after doing a simple sum, work out the order in which they should be placed on the central column. Although not mentioned by the manufacturers, this element can also be used as a sneaky way to encourage numeracy in children. Mixing sums with jigsaws seems a perfect way to get small children to practise their arithmetic. The serious jigsaw doer, of course will ignore the numbers and just course, will ignore the numbers and just work hy sight and feel to try to get them in the right order. Finally, for those who want a real challenge, several of the pieces may be broken into three, so that each level becomes a mini-jigsaw of its own. The final jigsaw-sculptures are quite stunning, making highly attractive ornaments in their own right.

The Dutch historian-philosopher Johan Huizinga, in his influential work Homo Ludens, wrote about the absolute sense of order offered by games through their clearly defined rules and delineation of playing areas: "Here we come across another, very positive feature of play: it creates order, is order. Into an imperfect world and into the confusion of life it brings a temporary, a limited perfection. Play demands order, absolute and supreme. The least deviation from it 'spoils the game', robs it of its character, and makes it worthless. The profound affinity between play and order is perhaps the reason why play ... seems to lie to such a large extent in the field of aesthetics. It may be that this aesthetic factor is identical with the impulse to create orderly form, which animates play in all its aspects.

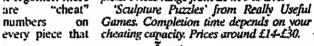
Those words, written in 1944, seem particularly appropriate to account for the joy of jigsaws - the most fundamental example of turning chaos into order in the context of a game, though oddly enough Huizinga does not seem to mention jigsaws at all in his book. What Waddington's "Puzz 3D" and the "Sculpture Puzzies" from Really Useful Games have to offer, however, is completed puzzles that are considerably more

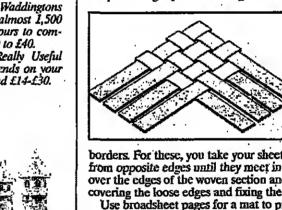
attractive (and far easier to display) than the old-fashioned flat jigsaws.

In explaining the joy of finally completing a truly complicated jigsaw, compared with the instant gratification of other times of game. Leaves Compared to the compared with the instant gratification of other times of game. other types of game, Jenny Cozens talks of "the difference between a detective story and Proust". The aesthetic pleasure

The 'Puzz 3D' range from Waddingtons includes puzzles from 225 to almost 1,500 pieces, taking from 8 to 40 hours to complete. Prices range from £14.99 to £40.

'Sculpture Puzzles' from Really Useful





Games people play

Pandora Melly finds fantasy in a mine-field

Nicholas Hills, 59, architect

I used to have my ears rubbed off in rugby scrums. I haven't played for 50 years, but my little son plays a bit. He's very good at running, preferably away from things. He's just won the 100 metres at his school sports day. It was quite thrilling to see the rivalry between him and his friend Cedric. There was torture and strain, and a hreakdown by Cedric who went away and sulked, but I suppose that's all right at 11.

I am nearly 60, so I may be forgiven for not doing anything. It's not just age; I'm actually quite slow at things, which is why I'm working this evening instead of gallivanting off to the delights of Cromer or Notwich.

Cromer is famous for its lifeboat and shanty men. The lifeboat is always rescuing people; it's probably out in this weather;

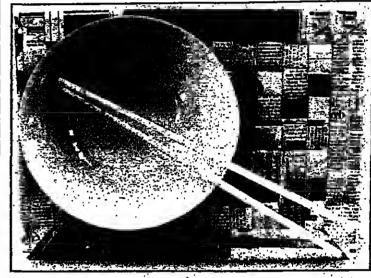
we're having tremendous gales. When I was little I was somewhat isolated; it was the war. you see. I had two imaginary friends, Mrs Schlinks and Mrs

Schlonks, and they lived in a martello tower. I'm sure you wouldn't want to know about them. Well, they were ladies, weren't they? I can hardly remember anything about them. How old would I have been then? Five perhaps, or six. Does anyone have imaginary people today? They weren't very interesting.

except that their tower was a real one on the other side of a minefield. I remember when my mother went completely frantic one day because a small friend and I had walked some distance through this mine-field to go swimming. No one believes this. but when young, my mother and a wild friend of hers jumped from the top of the tower on to the shingle below. Why they weren't killed I don't know, but they really

Annual membership of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution Storm Force' for children, £5; Offshore for sea-going members. £40, including quarterly journal. Details from RNL1 (01202 663000).

Don't junk it ... use it A practical use for newspaper columns



I have found countless uses for the newspaper mat, which is today's example of creative recycling. All you need is an old newspaper, scissors and a stapler, though I have found that a metre-long metal ruler also helps to produce a more finished product.

You start by folding the sheets of newspaper into thick strips. Just roll them up from one end then squash flat, if you're feeling lazy, or wrap them tightly round a long ruler, then remove the ruler.

sufficient number of chunky newspaper columns, you can interweave them, as shown in the diagram, to form the body of the mat. trimming them to the required size.

Having created a

A modification of the basic rolling technique is needed for the elegant

borders. For these, you take your sheet of newspaper and roll it up from opposite edges until they meet in the middle. This is then folded over the edges of the woven section and stapled into place, both covering the loose edges and fixing the geometry of the entire object.

Use broadsheet pages for a mat to protect your floor from the waste bin, Tabloid pages for spill-absorbent table mats, and last week's The Eye for individual place-mats.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Chess William Hartston

only in women's chess.

the first round of the

beginning to catch up. In

London-Peking match, the

Chinese players, with the

pieces on all boards, won 3-0. In the following game.

Neil McDonald fell victim

counted on 28.hxg7+ Kh8 29.Bg3 when 29...f5! leaves

him very much in the game.

White: Ye Jiangchuan

Black: Neil McDonald

18 Bd3 Rfe8

19 Rfel Nd5

But when White spotted

28.Bxd5 29.Bxe6+! and

30.Rh3! Black was dead.

I e4 e6

3 Nd2 c5

5 Ngt3 exd4

6 Bc4 Qd6

8 Nb3 Nc6

9 Nbxd4 Nxd426 h5 f6

7 0-0 Nf6

tt e3 Qe7

12 Oe2 Be7

13 Nh5 Octi

14 Bf4 0-0

15 Radt a6

t6 Nd4 Qc5

to an imaginative attack.

After 27...Bg7.

McDonald must have

advantage of the white

Now their men are

If you find yourself at a loose end in north London this weekend, you should drop in at the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (HR House, 447 High Road, Finchley N12) where three London grandmasters, Chris Ward. Keith Arkell and Neil McDonald, face three Chinese grandmasters. Wang Zili. Ye Jiangchuan and Peng Zaomin. in a challenge match between London and Peking.

Until the Sixties. China did not participate in international chess. With their own Chinese Chess. as well as Go and other oriental board games, they showed little interest in the Western game. Chinese teams played in the Olympiads of the late Sixties, but were seen more as a curiosity than a threat to the leading chess nations. Indeed it was not until 1974 that a Chinese player won a game against a grandmaster. 1 well remember the loser of that game, the urbane Dutch Grandmaster Jan Hein Donner, proudly maintaining: "Now I am the third most famous player in the world." Since his defeat would ensure that his name would be known throughout China. he reckoned that only Fischer and Spassky would be more famous. In the Eighties, the

Chinese became a real

world chess power - but

end this afternoon in to go tin suit and tic. Mall where the Varsity

concise crossword



ACROSS

20 Be4 Rad8 4 exd5 Qxd5 21 Rd3 g6 22 Qd2 b4 23 RB bxc3 24 bxc3 Bf8 25 b4 Bc8 to Nxd4 Bd7 27 hxg6 Bg7 13 Severe (5) 28 Bxd5 fxe5 29 Bxen+ Kh8 30 Rh3 Bxe6 31 Nxe6 Rxd2 32 Rxh7+ Kg8 24 Suitable for consump-33 Rxg7+ Kb8 25 Breakfast food (6)

... On the other hand, if you find yourself at a loose central London, the place please) is the RAC in Pall chess match is taking place. This year, it's Oxford against Cambridge.

DOWN

Make secure (6) Crime (7) Narrow neck of land (7 Rowing crews (6) Happen again (5) Drain completely (7) 11 Building block (5) Collective settlement in Society (4) 1srael (7) Professorial appoint-17 Causing irritation (5) ment (5) 18 SE Asian language (4) Japanese city (5) 22 Large serving spoon (5) 23 Book collection (7) European capital (9) 14 Church tower (7)

> 16 Wheeled transport (7) 19 Having smooth, shiny 20 Impromptu (2-3) 21 Monastery (5)

15 Swindled (7)

Solution to vestarday's Concise Crossword: Cocker, 4 Burrow (Kookaburra), 7 Stremous 13 Learns, 14 Sipper, 15 Salan, 17 Seeped, 1 23 Jazanula, 24 Turkey, 25 Hornet, DOWN; 5 4 Bhylan, 5 Royl, 9 Walter, 7 Steadlast, 8

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North **◆**J4 2852 ♦AK8632 V943 **OJ95** ♦ 10 7.4 ♣K 10962 South **◆**AQ109872 **♥A6** OQ.

South congratulated East on his smart defence against Four Snades on this deal. Dummy agreed with that, but refrained from sympathising with his partner. See if you can spot why.

4084

South opened 1 ♠ and West overcalled with 2 . Not a shy bidder. North showed his diamonds at the Three level and South jumped to 4 ♠ against which West led ♥K. Declarer won, overtook his O on the table, and discarded his losing heart on the other top diamond. There was little point in taking

Perplexity

'How many pigs do you keep on the farm?" I asked professor Sweinfcaver. "You'll need brains to answer that," he replied. "All 1 can remember is that the number of pigs is divisible by three, it's a five-digit number and the digits are represented by the letters SWINE where BRAINS plus

So how many pigs did the professor keep on his farm? The first correct answer opened on 12 Winner: Mrs M Boyle (Consett)

the trump finesse at this stage, for if the defenders did not want South to trump a losing club in dummy, they would have to lead trumps themselves. So South led a club from the table. This was East's chance to shine. He went in with his unprotected king and, when it held, switched to a trump. The finesse lost, West played another trump, and now there was no way for South to avoid losing two more clubs to go

South's play would have worked if West had held both top club honours, even with the trump king wrong, but he missed a distinct improvement. After discarding his losing heart at trick three, he does hetter to ruff a diamond high and then lead clubs from hand. Now, if East wins and switches to a trump, declarer finesses. The difference is that dummy's remaining diamonds are established and, indeed, if West leads a second trump, both of South's remaining losing clubs go away on the diamonds. And, if the diamonds had not broken 3-3, there would still have been the trump finesse in reserve.

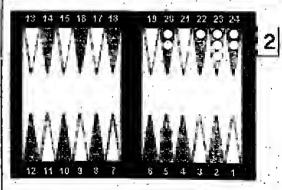
one off.

BRAINS equals ANSWER.

March will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary: Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

15 February answers: Nectarines (inn creates), Tangerines (green satin), Grapefruits (furriest gap)

Backgammon Chris Bray



Unlike London, where the Double Fives club is the centre of the backgammon action, New York has four clubs open seven days n week. Some of the world's top players can be seen in action and at least one of the chouettes I saw there recently was played at \$500 a point. Players were required to have \$40,000 in cash to join in - certainly not for the faint-hearted.

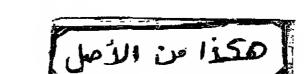
Alan Steffen, who will be familiar to many for his victory in the 1984 British Championships, has just opened his new club, the Ace Point. Professionally and hospitably run by Alan and his wife Lourdes, it provides games for all levels of players. The next few positions will be taken from some of my games there.

To start, what could be simpler than a bear-off? White is on roll in the position above. Should he redouble to 4? If he redoubles should Black take? On the pip count White leads by 21 to 29. Based on this alone, White should double and Black should drop. However, there are other factors to consider. White has eight men to bear-off, Black only six. White has an even number of men and a gap on his 4-point so if he rolls a number like 4.2 it will cost him a full roll (it will take him an extra roll to bear off his men). And if White, for example, rolls a 6, he will bear a man off the 5-point, thus "wasting" a pip. Black may reach a position where he can redouble. Most of these factors benefit Black, but is it enough to take the double?

Should White wait a roll because he may roll a 4? This simple problem has suddenly become complex. There is a way to solve it and others like it, as we shall see next week. In the meantime decide whether you would double as White and take or drop as Black.

The Ace Point Club can be found at 41 East 60th Street (5th floor), New York 10022 (001-212-753-0842). Internet: adslmt@prodigy.net.

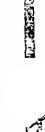
TURN TO PAGE 31... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damien Hurts' cartoon sage of artistic angst



حكذا من الأصل

Jing and

by Trevor stretched





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PHOTOGRAPH: GLYTH GRIFFITHS

ing the play, I wondered if this

had been the inspiration behind Ms Garrett's brief but notorious

that the reaction was exactly the

had learnt nothing in that time."

in Ms Garrett's rise came in

1982, when her first marriage

completely. She couldn't sing, couldn't hold a tune, could

bummed around, but I was

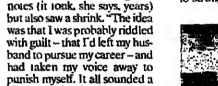
about my own resilience...

The most interesting hiccup

flash of naked bottom during a production of Die Fledermaus. Something that amazed me when I whipped me kit off was same as with Diana Rigg 20 years before - that is, ridiculous, over the top. As if the papers the gold id its sish adverfailed and her voice packed up

> seconds TBWAN

blown it and lost it for good. And "Danny Boy". And the There was apparently nothing wrong but I just couldn't ild award Trovatore, that was a huge remember how to sing." She a for its went to her singing teacher to a lot. It was wonderful to be so rebuild her whole range of





bit Californian, but it was interesting and I discovered a lot

As she bustles about her large and airy house in the fashionable end of Highgare. where she lives with her second

husband Peter and their children Chloe and Jeremy, it's hard to imagine this strong. unsinkably optimistic woman being bothered by guilt. You get the impression she has learnt to handle psychological stresses with the same aplomb that she handles critics, opera house bosses and Viennese snobs.

Lesley Garren has become such a force of nature, in her musicfor-all crusading, her spot-thediva self-promotion, her popular albums of crossover songs, that you leave her with the

impression of a woman endlessly forging ahead. As if stopping to think, or to look back, might leave her, like Eurydice, becalmed in regions quite alien

throw up with nerves, as she has done on two occasions in her career. Onc was when she was appointed MD of RCA Records. the first woman to rise so high in



Lesley Garrett: "I want to get rid of all the stereotypes and put people straight about what opera is... modern, interesting, believable, contemporary" Theeagerdiva

f the list of Things To Avoid Doing In Life is headed by "Playing Poker with Men Called Doc' " and "Walking into a Soweto Bar and Shouting Boy!", you'll find 'Attempting to Patronise Lesley Garrett" pretty high in the batting order. Ms Garrett is a compact (5ft 4ins) lady from Doncaster with enormous greygreen eyes, an eagerly matey manner and a conversational style that's a cross between Edwina Currie and Bet Lynch, switching from hectoring to flirfemale opera singer in the country, the principal soprano at the English National Opera and the most ubiquitous trained voice in the country. She also has a reputation for enthusiastic self-promotion. Not even Nigel Kennedy in his most Stradivarius-chewing, 'allomonstah persona can hold a candle to Ms Garrett when it comes to self-publicity, whether it's being Gotcha'd by Noel Edmonds, turning up on Esther Rantzen's sink of lachrymosity. Hearts of Gold, or appearing in a variety of plunging frocks on her album sleeves. Even if your interest in the classical repertoire began and ended with "Nessun Dorma", it's likely you've come across Ms Garrett's divine larynx without realising it she has sung oo a dozen TV ads, her voice fluting behind the earthbound attractions of

Ragu pasta sauce, Kenco coffee and the Renault 19 car. A busy life, a life in the spotlights, the fontlights, the best-seller charts. But Ms Garrett's celebrity has not, she says, been a smooth trajectory of acclaim. She's got where she is only by enduring the condescension of successive waves of horrible people: male charvinists, Londoners, classical purists, opera directors, foreign directors, reviewers, prudes, the press... Nothing, in her headlong flow of cooversation, was more heartfelt than the moments at which the word "patronise" surfaced. They reached a climax when she was talking about

Orpheus and Eurydice, which

Question: Which world leader is a

closet movie huff? Answer: Presi-

dent Bill Clinton. That should

relax America a little. After all,

some of his predecessors have had

far worse fetishes. It seems the

President retires to his private

movie theatre in the White House

at least once a week, sometimes

with the family. And his taste is a

ootch above the latest Hollywood

fare. Shine was one private show-

ing he raved about to friends.

American producer Harry Thoma-

son, whose film Sling Blade has an

Oscar nomination, the President

"sees more movies than most crit-

ics watch, with screening rooms at

According to Clinton's friend, the

anticipating its critical acclaim.

doomed, Hades stranded heroine. The opera is choreo-Martha Clarke, "whom I love" rking with. Her currency is profoundly visual, she deals in texture, shape and colour, the

to make the story, the drama, work. She doesn't feel she has to teach me, which is wooderful, it's so... not patronising."
Have you spent your life (I a kelim footstool for the last cloud of Isfahan motes, and uttering a heartbreaking cry. "For being too Northern, too

girlish, too tomboyish. For being too little, for being too sexy ... One reason why some people refuse to take La Garrett seriously is her long-sustained crusade to bring opera to the people. Ever since 1989, when the ENO launched their meetthe-company corporate campaign with a buge photograph of Ms Garrett looking wanton in a long black dress, she has gone out of her way to demystify opera, to be Everyman's

guide through the murky jungle of aria, recitative, coloratura and 20-minute death scene. . "I want to get rid of all the stereotypes," she says, "and put people straight about what opera is. You know the vast majority of people in this country still regard opera as élitist, highbrow, difficult to understand, full of enormous people screaming at each other in a foreign language; they think they'll

David Lister

aris notebool

tedly not exactly disinterestedly,

now is Sling Blade, since both he and

Billy Bob Thornton are from

for" is an interesting one. Not exert-

no, it's not like that, it's modern, it's interesting, it's believeable, graphed and directed by it's contemporary, and it's prob-'ably the biggest turn-on your

ation will ever have." Phew. But why did she care whether people listened to way these things generate mood music? Why did it matter if the and emotion and therefore majority of people in the UK never heard a single note by drama, but she leaves it to me Gluck? "If they don't ever hear Gluck because of a misguided impression about the music, if they don't hear it because of a stereotype that they believe asked) being talked down to? without ever questioning, if "Arginhh!" Ms Garrett, who they don't ever hear Gluck bad been sitting cross-legged on because they imagine it will make them feel stupid - those hour, abruptly banged both fists. are all things I abbor. Because on the material, releasing a it does matter. The wider everyone's artistic experience is, the better it makes you. It's part of the spiritual health of this country, and of our general wellbeing to have as much expo-

sure to as much art as possible." Cynics might point to the 70,000 sales of Ms Garrett's album, Soprano in Red, and say that the more new listeners classical opera acquires, the more CDs the divine Ms G will flog. She deftly anticipates such criticism by turning the whole business of popularism and promotion into a style statement. "It was with the ENO picture that I discovered how exciting it is to create publicity, and it's all part of the package; it's what I do. I find it fascinating to see what captures the public imagination. If you want classical music to have a future, you have to join the club and pro-

more it, to compete with the aodio-visual compension." She readily admits the power of the image, even in the realm of music. "It was that picture of have to watch stories they can't me in the ENO campaign that

A'MBM'A

ROW WHO

DROPS HOS

BY...

"The movie he has been pulling for retarded Arkansas man released Clinton highway crew in Arkansas.

insane to return against his will to

Arkansas. The phrase "pulling society. Billy Bob Thornton, it Arkansas, remains friends with the

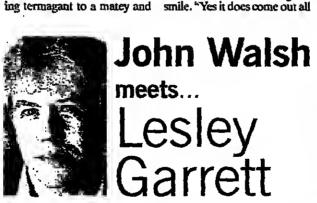
ing undue pressure on the upright writer, director and star and was a venture is filming Primary Colors,

opens at the ENO on Monday relate to, being sung at prices started my record career. I got with Ms Garrett playing Gluck's they can't afford. I want to say, a recording contract because of that picture, and I thought, 'Hey, this is powerful shif. The voice came into it second. Of course

bave done it otherwise." You could watch her bringing opera to the people via Harry Enfield's Guide to Opera a few years ago, and a documentary with the Birds of a Feather girls Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. You might have caught a TV "special" devoted to her work estitled Viva La Diva in April 1995. Nobody could have tried harder to change the image of the prima donna from

spoof. Did she approach it differently? "I approach all the roles in exactly the same way." she says with a trace of asperity. "I ask: what is this characit rapidly became the most ter about? What's been bappening to this wo happening to her now, and what's she going to do next? It doesn't matter of it's comedy or eo ough. Never been asked, tragedy, it's always people undergoing a profound emotional change. I approach them all very seriously. It's just that

some of them have laffs, and some don't... Laffs, eh? Did she ever worry that the lighter side of her nature got in the way of her interpretations? She did her that of a neurotic and demand- brilliant, aren't-I-incorrigible



But the downside of all this inyour-lap democratising was a suspicion in the mind of some commentators that Ms Garrett was a little too un-purist to be an authentic classical singer. I remarked that she'd played Eurydice at the ENO before, in Offeobach's Orpheus in the Underworld, and that Gluck was a radically more stark and

Sling Blade is the story of a actor, be did actually work on a

from an asylum for the criminally clearing brush, with a sling blade.

should be explained, is the film's President. His latest directorial

boydenish sexpot-next-door. the time, whether I like it or not. It's just kind of there. There's no character in history that hasn't got a lighter side, that hasn't some humour somewhere; but demonstrate it within the confines of the role is another matter." The wintry figures of Job, Metternich, Gladstone, Dostoyevsky and the Revd Ian Paisley hriefly wandered through serious proposition than the my head, looking for their encountered a lot of sexual disoperetta king's high-kicking

whether they're allowed to and decided to be a beadmas-

onist who was volatile and not

always faithful to his wife, In a spirit

of true southern friendship, Thorn-

White House to get his blessing

before taking on the movie adap-

tation of the book. Their discussion

remains private. But Thornton

loyally admits to having "toned

down the book a bit".

childhood, about which she speaks with enormous warmth and animation. She grew up in born, did it up and we moved ter. So he did a correspondence course in his signalbox, and went around with a taperecorder on his bike, and infants school, "although he

never encountered the bubbly

Ms Garrett in full flow, in her

zip-fronted red fleece and

I wondered how she went

down outside England. Had

she considered, say, a Wagner-

fan career? "No, I've never

worked in Germany, funnily

though I'd love to have a go. I

rise to challenges with monot-

onous regularity. I did acrually

go to Vienna recently, and it was miserable." Didn't they

like her voice? "They must

have because they asked me to

go and sing. They had me in

mind for a part in something.

They'd heard my albums, so I

brought a whole variety of

things. And the boss of the

opera house screamed at the

that I'd brought the wrong

material." Abruptly Ms Garrett

became a minatory Brimnhilde.

house,' be shouted, 'Vy do you

bring zese arias?' I thought, my

life's too short for this, so I just

It all comes down to her

said. 'By-ece' ... "

Ve don't do zese songs in ziss

Buck's Fizz hairstyle.

Little Sweep, and the next term we'd do My Fair Lady. It was Doncaster, where her father was a signalmaster and autodi-dact. He bought a tiny. completely normal to juggle them all together." derelict, docker's cottage by When she was 15, her Aunt Eileen took her to London for the side of a river just after I was the first time and introduced there and it was Paradise," she recalls. "Then, after my sisters were born, he realised he most wanted to work with children. became head teacher at an "lighter side" - but then they'd crimination. It was pretty

her to showbiz, operatic and otherwise. "We went to a different show every night. I saw Madam Butterfly - I'd never seen an opera before. And a Tchaikovsky concert. I saw a musical called 1781, which was extraordinary, and I went to Abelard and Heloise, which changed my life completely." Remembering how Diana Rigg (as Heloise) was loudly mocked for appearing sans clothing dur-

unheard-of for a man to be in

The family were, of course,

egregiously musical, some-

where between the Partridge

Family and the Von Trapps.

whole area of south Yorkshire."

loved all Mario Lanza's stuff.

"Miserere" from Verdi's Il

favourite, we sang that together

- uncluttered by television. We

just had the radio and the piano.

Mother sang and played the

piano. And we didn't worry

about compartments of music.

I'd sing 'My Old Man Said Fol-

low the Van", followed by Han-

del's Messiah, and not think

anything about it. Then my

father would write me a poem,

and my mother would play

some Bach on the piano. And

my uncle would come round

and play jazz on the saxophone.

And I'd go to school and we'd

do Benjamin Britten's The

but there was a great variety of hardly produce a oote - "maybe

music around. Music wasn't a a tone, that was all. I just could-

bobby of the family but of the n'i do it, I got a few jobs and

What did her father sing? "He really frightened. I thought I'd

charge of tiny babies."

that he was one of the Shrewsbury Lisa Anderson, the music industry Three (an all-but-forgotten episode consultant and eminence grise during the Heath government in ton consulted his chum in the which three building workers were jailed for illegal picketing in 1972). He was the shop steward and

served two years in prison. Wheo

he came nut he was blacklisted by

the building trade and made his

living doing stand-up comedy, something he had fantasised about "So how dld you get into acting?" just occasionally produces a mem-He still does regular stand-op to orable response. It did at a recent the accompaniment of his banjo and assorted hecklers, in Liverpool's awards lunch when I was seated oext to Ricky Tomlinson, the Atlantic pub. He didn't have his first bearded Liverpudlian who gave a acting role until he was 40, and walksearing performance in Jimmy on parts led eventually to roles in McGovern's TV dramatisation of Brookside, Cracker and Hillsborough. the Hillsborough disaster, and who Actor, wisecracker, banjo player and one-time political prisoner ... why is shortly to star in the film Mojo alongside Harold Pinter in a rare the chat show circuit hasn't discov-

The other was when Richard Branson told her to go to court to give a character reference for Johnny Rotten, Mr Rotten was up for assault. She looked at the two six-footers he was supposed to have hit looked at five-foot-six Rotten and Iold the magistrate: "He couldn't possibly have done it. He's so fabulously, gloriously weedy." Rotten got off, Lisa was promoted and puok died.

the industry.

to her jolly spirit.

behind this week's Brit Awards, at

least found that organising the

bash this week did not cause her to

The family watches many double gentlemen and ladies of the Acad-surprise nomination for Best Actor the thinly disguised novel about the many wanties many wanties many wanties. I trust in the Oscars Before becoming an Clinton's early days with a protag-screen role. Tomlinson told me ered this guy is a mystery features." Thomason adds, admit-emy Awards Committee, I trust. in the Oscars Before becoming an

② **339** ③ ●

Thornton, who still lives in

arts books

Ins and outs of Scottish Highland dancing

hy isn'i La Sylphide performed more often? Created in 1832 Highland Fling, The Place, London by Filippo Tudical to characteristics. hy Filippo Taglioni to showcase his daughter Marie's revolutionary pointe-work, the ballet was reworked in 1836 by the Danish romaotic Auguste Bournonville and it is this version that usually survives today. Or does it? You can see it regularly in Paris or New York or Copenhagen, but this jewel of the romantic repertoire hasn't adorned the London stage since ENB last did it in 1989. Scottish Ballet are currently fouring with a production that reminds us why this neglect is such a scandal.

The lean, two-act tale tells of James, a young Scottish bridegroom beguiled hy a passing Sylph on the eve of his wedding. A local hag hrews an enchanted scarf which James believes will bind the clusive Sylph to him - big mistake. Scottish Ballet has performed the work since 1973 and the current restaging is by the former Royal Danish ballerina Sorella Englund. On Wednesday, Johan Kobborg, a young Danish virtuoso, acted the role of James

with eagerness and melancholy and

danced it with a brilliance that few British dancers could match. His

partner was fellow guest Tamara Rojo, who imbued the Sylph with a mixture of mischief and other-worldly innocence. The role of the vengeful crone Madge often degenerates into ham, but Sorella Englund conveyed the spite and menace of the character with an air of normality. Although eccentric, she would not be out of place at a Highland wedding like a ghastly auntic who always gets legless hut has to be invited. The corps formed Bournonville's sculptural ensembles - as deft and artful as a clutch of cherubs on a ceiling.

These treats seemed a tiny bit wasted on Woking. Wednesday's audience was thin and Kohborg's performance, which would have blown the socks off Covent Garden, was greeted with village-cricker applause. The boneheadedness of this response was highlighted by the knicker-wetting screams greeting the evening's other piece. Robert North's butch ballet *Troy Ganu*e.

Manhew Bourne's 1994 version of La Sylphide might have gone down better. (01494-512000); 20-24 May. Highland Fling relocates the hallet to an Lyceum. Sheffield (0114 276 9922)

absurdly plaid pad in a Glasgow high-rise, and the Sylph is a grungy waif who symbolises the anarchic pleasures of James's chemical dependence. Her hands may be demurely crossed but they are pawing at her crotch.

The second act bas worn bener than the first. Bourne's five grubby sylphs show distinct flashes of what be would later achieve with his corps of male swans, and we glimpse the choreographer's ability to flip from farce to tragedy. Bournonville's Sylpb dies as the baleful scarf enfolds her and the fairy wings drop from her waist. It's a terrible moment, but its full impact requires an audieoce in tuoe with the romantic sensibilities and able to appreciate the tragic loss of immortality. Bourne's Sylph dies wheo James, eager for gratification, bloodily amputates ber wings, a coup de théâtre that takes a short cut to our emotions.

'Highland Fling'; tonight, The Place, London WC1 (387 0031); then Wed-Sat, Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham (0121-440 3838). Scottish Ballet double-bill: 29 Apr-3 May, The Swan, High Wycombe

The reality myth

Paul Taylor catches a rare sight of 'Cymbeline' and 'Camino Real' at Stratford



Casanova meets the Lady of the Camelllas: Peter Egan and Susannah York in 'Camino Real'

Voices raised in protest – but ever so politely

ood idea in principle; naff in prac-lice. For Wednesday's concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Women's Playhouse Trust had brought together a collection of women writers, composers, a visual artist, a director and sundry performers to create a contemporary response to the obscenity of war.

racism, dispossession and displacement, Passages, comprising 20 newly commissioned songs, was the result, performed end to end in two parts. But why should the effect have been so muted? Was it the dominating presence of an enormous, white, bed-like structure slightly Ikea-style, but also reminiscent of Claes Oldenburg's soft sculptures - on which the five women singers swayed and tottered? Surely not the surface for angry protestation or passionate discourse. And the "politeness" of the QEH seemed so desperately at odds with the subject matter - isn't Passages a show for angry, empty warehouses where main jazzy - with clarinet/sux, percussion. tickets are cheap and the communication simple? Two-foot-square programmes (at £4 a shot) do nothing but aggravate adjacent punters, and text that requires a magnifying glass is not best served by low lights. In the Stygian gloom, poets melancholy, meandering round a slow

and composers' names were impossible to decipher and poems impossible to read - hardly the stuff of carnest protest. For this seemed to be the problem - the hasies, like the need to hear words, had all heen forgotten. Time and time again. into a hlack hole went those words, a pity since the poets included some wellknown names: Katie Campbell, Jackie

Kay, Deborah Levy and Jo Shapcott. The roll-call of composers - Ruth Byrchmore, Jane Gardner, Priti Paintal, Roxanna Panufnik, Ilona Sekacz and Errollyn Wallen - should have provided considerable variation. But the final outcome, with scarcely an exception, was a deadening similarity. The estimable Endymion Ensemble, with whom the WPT has successfully collaborated in the past, provided a set sound - in the piano/synthesiser, string bass/electric guitar, violin viola and gamelan, which contributed to the monotony. Hona Schacz's "Eight Gallons of Water" (text melancholy, meandering round a slow. Hyacinth Nicholls.

waltz, picked out on synthesiser, as four women sang to each other atop the bales of the hed, like some perverse havstack.

"This Little Piggy" hy Jaoe Gardner, again to a text by Katie Campbell, attempted to barness the terror and dislocated pain of confrontation with faceless burcaucracy: Jenny Miller was a touching proponeot. The Old Nag Explains Herself 1 text by Jo Shapcoti, music by Ruth Byrchmore) seemed heartfelt, but what was being sung? "Shit in Her Eyes", by the most gifted of the crowd, Errollyn Wallen, to a text by Deborah Levy, began the second half, raunchily sporting Angle Browo in high-energy rock mode. But lit in red? A little cliched, perhaps. And what standard props: battered suitcases, battered shoes, black trenchcoats, white headscarves. Here was tabloid politics, hereft of satire, lacking in bite, a cry too far from the bitter worlds of Weill. Eisler or Shostakovicb.

Wasfi Kani conducted; Jules Wright directed; other lable) singers were Ann-Maric Sands. Lynne Davies, Tinuke Olafimihan. Angie Brown and

bakespeare's Cymbeline and Tennessee Williams' Camino Real are not The sort of plays that cause stampedes to the box-office, so, with the opening of both this week in Stratford, the RSC can't be accused of playing safe with repertoire. Towards the end of the Williams, one of the characters is moved to allude to the famous TS Eliot line that "Humankind cannot bear very much reality". After seeing these two works on consecutive evenings, you feel that it is humankind's capacity to tolerate unreality that has been diligently tested.

A virtuoso exercise in tonal incongruities and discrepant emotional extremes, Cymbeline juxtaposes the wildly improbable and the piercingly heartfelt, the beautiful and the grotesque. This is pushed to the limit in the scene where the heroine Imogen, believed dead, is laid next to a decapitated corpse. When she comes round, the clothes trick her into thinking that this grizzly object is her husband. The audience knows that it is, in fact, ber oasty, ridiculous stephrother. Cloten, so her speech of stricken recognition is delivered in a context pregnant with black, bad-taste comedy.

The greatest asset in Adrian Noble's into an effete class-conscious dimwit who main-stage production at Strattord is Joanne Pearce, who, in the role of Imogen, deep-down that he is a born loser, has the flexibility to present her at some moments with a kind of warm, playful detachment and, at others, with a stunning emotional raptness.

she is in conflict over tributes have been given a strongly oriental look - Two Little Maids from School meet the Seven Samurai in a bare blue box within which a buge. sail-like white sheet is raised and lowered to define the various locations. Characters trip oo and off via a ramp that extends down one of the aisles. Notwithstanding all this distancing exoticism, Cymbeline's lost sons - played with a droll, artful artlessness by Richard Cant and Jo Stone-Fewings speak with the broad Welsh accents of the

wilds where they've been reared.

Noble makes the complicated proceedings unusually clear - the mind-knotting expository dialogue between the first and second gentlemen at the start bas been recast and reduced to a scene-setting narrative told by the soothsayer to a nomadic tribe sitting round a flaming dish. This puts the production on the right fable-like lines. Sbades of the Victorian pantomime villain are perhaps evoked too strongly in Paul-Freeman's smooth dastard of a lachimo. but Guy Henry interestingly turns Cloten - in a way that is almost pathetic - knows

Tennessee Williams once revealed that he got the germ of Camino Real from the suddeo fear be briefly experienced, as be Theatre; 'Camino Real' at the Swan. Both watched a torch-carrying procession in in rep. Booking: 01789 295623

In this heavily cut version of the play, pre-Christian Britain and the Rome with which In Camino Real, that place has become Mexico, of Dying in an Unknown Place. thoroughly mythical: a desiccated, out-oftime, central American coastal town, with a desert beyond its ancient walls. Stranded bere are a group of romantic non-cooformists from history and literature, who are all presented as well past their sell-by dates (they include Casanova, Marguerite Gautier, Don Quixote and Lord Byron). They are joined by another has-been, Kilroy, an American vagrant who was once a champion boxer but who has had to ditch his career because his beart is "as big as the head of a baby".

Darrell D'Silva brings Kilnoy engag-ingly to life in Steven Pimlott's atmospheric. bustling, and endless-seeming production. But, as a play about the fate of the romantic in modern society, the piece can only offer an inert allegorical conflict between characters who have an unearned poignancy by virtue of their contrived temporal position and caricature baddies. Moving performances from Susannah York as Marguerite and Peter Egan as Casanova did not prevent the experience

of watching this long and heavy-banded play from feeling like a chore. It's the kind of work you can enjoy the virtue of having scen. Once 'Cymbeline' is at the Royal Shakespeare

"Will ensure that his

stubbornly individual

achievement is honoured in

Times. "Imitating waywardness ... some flashes of real

painterly bluster," complained

The Sunday Times. "So many

painterly invention, and an awful lot of unconvincing

thumping grandiosities," spluttered The Observer.

It's worth going round

backwards to

recognise the

strength of the

later, greater works.

Britain at last," admired The

NEXT WEEK IN

* THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY DEEPAK **CHOPRA**

the richest guru in the West. Has **Hillary Clinton** and Michael **Jackson in his** thrall but not our new interviewer **Deborah Ross**



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ON THE ARTS PAGES THIS WEEK interviews with Rostropovich, Anthony Minghella and Luther Vandross

> * THE INDEPENDENT IT IS ... ARE YOU?



inane attentions, it's often a

Telegraph. "Hunter's

apologia ... but she is

close-run thing," seethed The

performance is strong enough

not to demand any framing

imprisoned by the concept,"

and production fail to gel

the play needs depth, not show," snorted The Times.

chastised The Guardian. "Play

Hunter succeeds towards the

end of the play

production never

but the

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Standard. "She takes a poor

departed author and tries to

polemical life it never had

and a psychological hindsightedness it would never have sough!," admonished

the FT. *As cinematically

intelligent as it is faithful to

the original ... immensely assured," yelped Time Out.

Very beautiful but the poster

looks like

says a lot.

Kidman has a

headache, which

shake his work into a

The best seat in the house

David Benedict asks Simon Curtis, chief producer of BBC2's Performance season, to name five good reasons why staying in is the best way of getting to the theatre

t's like Opai Fruits: the cast lists alone are made factory results. Fine for fans, but unlikely to book to make your mouth water. Fiona Shaw, the casual viewer. Dooald Sinden, Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Mandy Patinkin, David Bamber, John Sessions... directors such as Deborah Warner, Roger Michell and Sam Mendes aren't exactly make it into the theatre, and those who can imagent the such as the such small-fry either. Were this a theatre season there would be a glamorous press lamch and a box office advance you could retire on but, unless you are a Radio Times junkie, you probably know nothing

"It does aggravate me that Ian Holm does a Performance play, and nobody says a word; then three weeks later be opens at the National, and gets two pages in The Evening Standard. I don't quite understand that." Simon Curtis, executive producer of the BBC Performance season of stage plays on television, is a benign man but there's an altogether reasonable level of irritation beneath the surface.

Curtis's problem stems from the peculiar relationship between theatre and TV. You only have to watch the Olivier Awards, replete with lifeless, hurriedly taped clips from the hits, to realise that theatre on TV is a dodgy game. The lighting looks flat, the camera excludes reactions from others on stage and performances never conceived for the duction of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's ruthless eye of the camera are thrust into closeup. Cross-cultural mixing may be the stuff of postmodern life, but high culture in a low culture art

March, closely followed by Fiona Shaw repeats her controversial performance as Richard II on 15 March

As seen on TV: Fiona Shaw repeats her controversial performance as Richard II on 15 March

Charged atmosphere that floods the auditorium

moments work best, rather than trying to capture ruthless eye of the camera are thrust into closeform often ends up looking like the worst of all possible worlds

Classical music has it easy. Televising orchestral usually a complement to good music from a good seat and, with decent camera set-ups, the opportunity to see a conductor at work rather than staring at flapping coat tails is a bonus. On the other hand, most opera broadcasts degenerate into "Event TV": thrill to Domingo in the comfort of your own home. It's a case of never mind the quality, feel the occasion.

The costs of creating opera in the studio are generally prohibitive, which means live broadcasts from vast stages. In technical terms, the frankly unsightly physical exertion of singing and the fact. that few singers are likely contenders for Best Actor nominations reoders close-ups almost impossible. All of which gives you static camera work, disengaging long-shots and largely unsatis-

city school. A bas-

ketball court is

marked out, a dozen or so room. When the production

Theatre is more malleable but there's a chasm me nothing worse. The former camp underestimates the formal difficulties, while the latter cites the generally stodgy BBC Shakespeare seasons or the stagy Play of the Month slot of yesteryear, rightly asserting that they made for second-hand theatre and third-rate television. That group cannot have tuned into such triumphs as Anthony Page's masterly screen version of Absolute Hell that led to a major National Theatre revival with many of the same cast. Nor can they have been part of the audience of two million entranced by Inliet Stevenson in A Doll's House or Zoe Wanamaker and Colin Firth in DH Lawrence's The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd,

If these highlights from previous series are anything to go by, tonight's opening of the sixth Per-formance season should be worth staying in for. Anyone who has ever considered a committed relationship is in for a provocative evening on the settee watching the intimate Donmar Warehouse proher controversial performance as Shakespeare's Richard II. Henry Goodman and Margot Leices-Classical music has it easy. Televising orchestral ter as the Jewish couple whose lives are torn apart concerts is a cinch by comparison. The visuals are by guilt in Arthur Miller's Broken Glass complete the quartet of West End triumphs coming to a TV screen near you. Four theatrical sensations, plus Penny Woolcock's Macbeth on the Estate, an adaptation of Shakespeare filmed on location in Birmingham. Dead certs?

"People say: "The reason your plays work is that they're great plays, you're not taking risks.' By that token," Curtis says, "every Shakespeare production at the RSC would be a success." It's true. Great ingredients don't necessarily make the perfect meal. On paper, John Malkovich, Miranda Richardson and Kate Nelligan in Pinter's powerfully static Old Times should have scorched the sofa. Instead it remained frozen. The trouble with televising Pinter is that his elliptical dialogue flattens out into TV naturalism and the highly



like dry ice stops dead at the lens,

Curtis, who came from the Royal Court to create Performance, has formed his guidelines on the joh. "I learned pretty quickly that Ibsen works better the Chekhov. Ibsen is structured oot unlike a soap opera with very intense, two- or three-handers, but the beauty of Chekhov is the ensemble which the camera can't capture, It selects. You think, 'Why are we looking at that when I want to be over there or watching those two?" Then there's the problem of pacing. Theatre plays almost always begin incredibly slowly. In *Hedda Gabler* there's 25 minutes, the length of a whole soap episode, before Hedda appears. Theatre writers are allowing the audience to get com-fortable, to get used to the world. Television is about grabbing the audience immediately or they'll go. I'm always in favour of a director trim-

ming but that's tricky."

He believes that quiet, intense, emotional

big coups de théatres, Company marks a departure, having been shot in the theatre, but it fits his criteria, "It's at its best when you just sec Adrian Lester sitting on a chair singing a fantastic song in close-

up." That exposing of emotions is what makes My Night With Reg so remarkable, Roger Michell takes the original ensemble cast who know each other and the subtext inside out and places the camera at the heart of the emotional cross-currents. On stage it was a hilarious and painful play about the lies people tell. On screen it becomes a profoundly moving exploration of the truths they hide.
As BBC2 slides relentlessly down-market - wit-

ness the axing of Moving Pictures, television's finest film programme and the arrival of such burning subjects for Late Review as The First Wives Club - isn't Performance under threat from the ratingschasing ethos? "I never ever had any worries at all from the powers-that-be about audiences. They just want it to be quality work. In this little strand

charged atmosphere that floods the auditorium moments work best rather than trying to capture there is still that belief that the BBC should do work that some people will enjoy. That doesn't have to be a jackpot thing.

None the less. Curtis isn't living in an ivory tower and he keeps an eye on ratings and TV names. An appropriate sitcom actor could bring him a 10th or a 20th of the Only Fools and Horses audience. That's the equivalent of an awful lot of nights in a theatre. I do everything I can to draw attention to the work and make it as accessible and popular as possible and then pray to God that the film on BBCI isn't too good that night. One of my favourites was Paddy Chayevsky's The Mother. We had Anne Bancroft, it was the first time the play had ever been revived and it went out on the night of the first ever Lottery draw. We were dead in the water. That's the problem with TV. I've learnt not to care about audience figures. It's a crap shoot."

'Company' opens the new 'Performance' season: 8.30 tonight, BBC2

he singing will never be dor

'Another Orpheus sings again, and loves, and weeps, and dies' - thanks to Messrs Monteverdi, Gluck and Haydn. By Nick Kimberley

style happy ending tacked on

in and tear Orpheus to pieces.

players in everyday clothes reaches the stage, there will be composer's lifetime).

By definition, myth has no take up positions. Is it a team no inner-city flotsam. Still formation for some exotic new Orpheus remains a figure for form of the game? Suddenly our times, whose natural habiurtext, but, in its Greek form, tat is opera. Over the coming they begin an odd ritual, like the legend of Orpheus had its throwing seed. While they sow. weeks we have the chance to hero dismembered by female they sing. Stranger still, facing compare and contrast different followers of the god Bacchus for versions of the tale from the them across the court is a the sin of spurning womankind. His head, the legend added, first two centuries of operatic harpsichordist. went on singing as it floated out because the 'focus group' did-What is unfurling is a scene history: Kent Opera's Orfeo to sea. In one version of the from Monteverdi's Orfeo. This (premiered in Mantua, 1607); n't like the original. But, in the opera, the Bacchantes would be could be from one of those a new English bbretto which the poet Strigtrendy po-mo productions gione provided for Monteverdi, National a distraction. It's not relevant to the themes of the piece that a Opera prothe opera ends with Orpheus in which baroque formality is juxtaposed with the debris duction. fleeing from the Bacchantes. It's group of women should come not known if the composer ever Ghick's: of contemporary Orfeo. set this episode to music; the That's a myth about denying the **Euridice** surviving score offers a new finale, in which Apollo ushers Orpheus heavenwards, where be once more encounters Eury-1762); and, dice's loveliness "in the sun and in the stars". For modern audiences, this is anticlimax. as is the ending of Gluck's opera, in which Amor (aka Cupid), having restored Eurydice to life, reunites her with Orpheus to the sound of general rejoicing. It's not something that much bothers Tim Carroll, who Kent Орета's Orpheus with his lute made why the opera ends with a trees, and the mountain tops that freeze, bow when he did sing'

Opera staging, and the gym is not scenery, simply a rehearsal

Philharmonic. sentation of the power of music, London Haydn's last opera, L'anima encapsulated in the idea of Orpheus being able to move del filosofo (written for London in 1791 but unperformed in the stooes and charm animals. Then we come to Monteverdi's opera, which asks 'Can music defeat death?' and it answers, In a way, yes: not physically, but in another way.' Monteverdi's ending has had a bad press, suggesting that it's a Hollywood-

sexual imperative; it's not what interests me bere, nor did it interest Monteverdi. His point was to emphasise what music achieves. Meanwhile, at ENO, director Martha Clarke has been grappling with Gluck's "prob-lem" ending. For her, "The myth is more interesting and I had a day of being enchanted with the idea of going against the music, of making the end-ing dark. Then I realised h was pushing it too far and getting frightfully arty." Jane Glover, conductor of the ENO performances, goes further: "I don't think Gluck liked the happy ending any more than the rest of us. You have a feeling that, after the coup de théatre where Amor returns Eurydice to life, the composer hands the reins to the choreographer and says,

> sequence of dances." Surprisingly, it is Haydn's opera that comes closest to the myth: Eurydice dies; Orpheus is poisoned by the Bacchantes. As Christopher Hogwood, the cooductor of the new Decca recording, remarks; "It must have been a real challenge for Hayda, writing his first opera for London, the world's musical centre, to end it with both main characters dead, a whimper, a long drum roll and lots of D minor. In fact, some people have wondered whether the opera is really finished, whether perhaps we're missing

'OK, you finish it', and that's

gesting that their happy endings somehow compromise the operas by Gluck and Monte-verdi: "Opera lives from minute to minute, and you can go the full way emotionally with either opera while knowing that, at the end, there's going to be this little rescue act by Apollo or Amor." Some

recent stagings of the two works have enacted the Bacchic dismemberment in mime while the music offers the lieto fine that operatic convention demanded. Hogwood believes that Haydn's opera resists any such stylisation - one reason why it remains a rarity: "Modern producers find it hard to accept Haydn's conventions. You can't transpose a Haydn piece like this to Harlem, you can't have the heroine high on drugs, you can't have them all in boxer shorts and skateboards. So it poses problems for producers who can't take theatrical ventures on their

own terms, and very few can.' Neither Kent nor ENO are offering modern-dress stagings, nor are they striving for cod baroquerie or Arcadian pastoralism. As Tim Carroll says, "Monteverdi's opera is a piece about mankind, and it requires a sense of 'ancientness' only inasmuch as it provides a feeling of continuity, that this has always been the case. It's a question of trying to create a world that has the texture of being connected to the earth, of happening in a real place to real people. That's the genius of this opera: it's absolutely emblematic, and at the same time absolutely human."

it's also a work that draws its power largely from its vocal lines. Although he's an early music specialist, Kent Opera's cooductor John Toll is less concerned with authenticity thao with expressivity: "I wanted voices that were - can I use the word? - urspoilt. Singers get precious about the voice as an instrument, and so lose an intuitive, spontancous response to text. The expressive force of a voice is generated by text, and that's particularly essential here, where

e are in the gym of urban life. In fact, it's a a new recording, and a pair of staging of the Monteverdi: "The a fifth act with a happy ending." Monteverdi is searching for a disused inner- rehearsal for a new Kent concert performances by the myth is so succinct in its reprethrough music. A highly stylised and oratorical speech. no doubt, but using music to

boost its emotional force." ENO's Orfeo is the countertenor Michael Chance, perhaps the world's leading interpreter of the role - at least in the original 1762 version of Gluck's opera, written for the castrato Guadagni (Gluck later revised the part for high tenor, while most modern stagings compromise on a mezzo in drag). Nor, says ENO conductor Jane Glover, are they "corrupting" the original text with any of the music from later versions: "If you're going to do the 1762 version, then do it. People may say, 'Where's that lovely flute part? Where's the

Dance of the Blessed Spirits?' so that you look at them and But forget that those things have ever been there, and the piece unfolds in an incredibly tight way. It's so strong, we're running it without an interval."

Martha Clarke, best known as a choreographer, is using a complement of dancers, not as ornament but as what she calls "the colour-field of Orpheus' emotional journey".

"The opera is tremendously pure, so the production is simple and stark. My own direction in chorcography is towards the theatrical gesture that emerges from natural movement, rather than anything based on traditional technique. What I've been trying to do is to find a common language, to merge the vocabularies of singers and dancers, L'Oiseau Lyre (452 668-2)

you can't tell who is doing what: the dancers are part of the community of Orpheus." The community of Orpheus is a large one, embracing all

opera, and all singers. Opera may have dismembered the myth for its own purposes but, as these three variants show, that dismemberment can never stop Orpheus from singing.

Monteverdi: 7.30 tonight, 3pm Sun, Theatre Royal, Margare (01843 293877), 7.45 Thu, QEH, SBC, London (0171-960 4242) and touring. Gluck: from Mon. Spm ENO, London Coliseum (0171-632 8300). Haydn: LPO concert performances, 7pm 20, 25 March QEH (as above): Hogwood recording on Decca /

Monday's Arts pages now appear in the Broadsheet section



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Seriously comic

Charles Shaar Murray explores a graphic dream world

The Sandman: the wake by Neil Gaiman Titan Books, £19.99

s Neil Gaiman's Sandman the greatest comic hook of all time? In your dreams. Those who still consider Norman Mailer a major figure in American cultural life should know that he provided Sandman with a blurb from heaven. asserted in a widely-circulated printhite, "is a comic strip for intellectuals, and I say it's about time,"

have no way of knowing whether Mailer has read any comics since his Clive Barker, Ramsey Campbell) days in the US Army over half a century ago. Successive generations of intellectuals have lavished praise on successive generations of comics: the allusive surrealism of George Herriman's Kney Kut, the lacerating political satire of Walt Kelly's Pogo, the innovative graphic ingenuity of Will Eisner's Spirit, the sheer vitality of Sran Lee and Jack Kirby's original batch of Murrel Comics superheroes, and the scanrous confessionalism of Robert Crumh. More recently, Art Spiegel-man's Holocaust fable Mans. Frank Miller's breathtaking redefinition of Batman, The Dark Knight Returns, and Alan Moore's devastating critique of the superhero, Watchmen. have all attracted artention far beyond the confines of the tradi-

tional comics ghetto. cess achieved by Gaiman's Sand-man series. Uniquely among - the Prince of Stories himself. looks younger) does. An adorable punkette with an irredeemably optihig-selling comics titles, this is a strip primarily concerned with ideas. Sandman is a story about story, a human imagination. His saga was Her solo story. Death: The High Cost myth about myth, a postmodern described by one critic as "a secret of Living, will be filmed with a metafiction with word balloons, "If history of the unconscious". Mor-

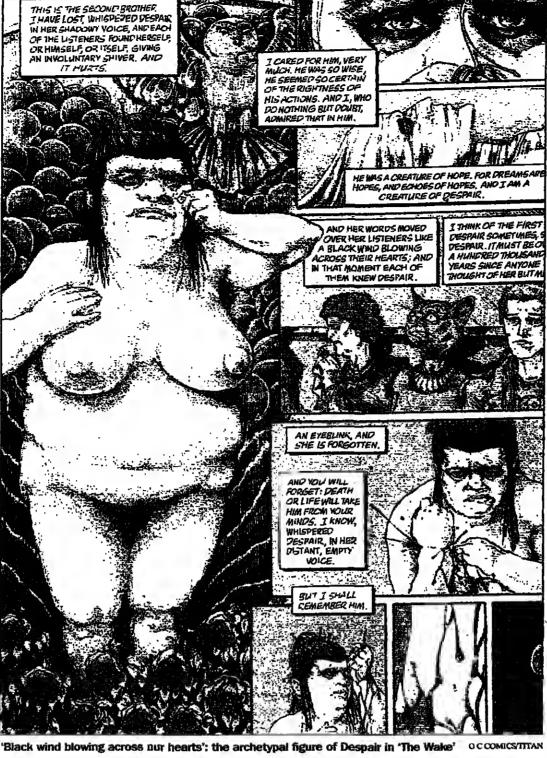
this isn't literature." Peter Strauh wrote defiantly in an afterword to the Sandman collection Brief Lives,

Between 1988 and 1996, the Sandman comic ran for 75 monthly issues - not to mention the odd special or spin-off - and was collected into ten "graphic novels". The last of them, The Wake, is published this week. By the time the title was "Sandman," the Great Man wound down - at the author's behest - Sandman had accumulated a formidable shelf of awards, was selling over a million copies a year, and had So careat lector! After all, we a Who's Who of fantasy and horror

queuing up to sing its praises. Yet Sandman's beginnings were inauspicious. In a comics world dominated by lights in tights, the primary assets are titles and characters rather than arrists or writers. Editors seek ways to revamp obscure or faltering characters. The original Sandman was a 1940s nohoper disinterred from the mouldering pages of Justice Society Of America: a Bruce Wayne-like millionaire playboy in trenchcoat. fedora and mask, who fought crime by putting villains to sleep with a gas-gun. Unfortunately, he had an identical effect on readers.

DC Comics editor Karin Berger therefore risked little when she handed the poor schlub over to Neil Gaiman (a personable English pop-culture hack) for updating. Gaiman rounded by nebulous landscapes: trated the strip over the past eight to demand to be judged by those Gaiman (a personable English pop-However, nothing produced in repaid her percipience: in a major it's where we go when we dream. he field during the past ten years—coup, he transformed the dullest has come close to the crucial com- excuse for a superhero ever to sense of humour. Fortunately, his hination of popular and critical suc- waste woodpulp into the dread fig- clder sister Death (who nevertheless

Gaiman's Sandman was nothing less than a personification of the



phcus - aka Dream, or Oneiros - is one of the archetypes who call themselves The Endless, the others being Destiny, Despair, Desire, Delirium (who used to be Delight) and Destruction (who retired in the 17th century hecause humans no longer needed him). Dream is a tall. pallid figure with a shock of black hair, somewhat resembling The Cure's Robert Smith, minus the lipstick, after being thoroughly stretched on a rack. His realm is comics; others from the entire The Dreaming, an ever-changing

Morpheus has absolutely no mistic outlook, she incongruously hecame many readers' favourite.

and a formidable researcher, Sandman is packed with pastiche, allusion and greater and lesser arcana of all descriptions. Historical figures such as William Shakespeare, who appears as himself here in two key tales hased on A Midsummer Night's Dream and the Tempest, ruh shoulders with the fictional creations of others, some derived from the repertory company of DC's own

Gaiman is an omnivorous reader

tapestry of human myth. The many hands who have illusyears have borrowed the appear- standards. ances of a variety of notables. resembles the avant-garde novelist Kathy Acker, and Fiddlers' Green, a place in The Dreaming which decided to get up and walk, does so as G K Chesterion.

The most consciously literary mass-market comic Strip ever, where else.

Sandman finally counts as a conditional triumph. As is appropriate for a dream about dreams, Sandman is gossamer-thin, not always able to support the weight of the symbolic anvils Gaiman places upon it. The strip rarely stops winking at the reader, and even at its grimmest and goriest it remains oversweet. Gaiman's weakness remains the cutesiness demonstrated in his overblown novel and TV series Neverwhere. But even if Sandman isn't the greatest comic

Before Sandman, the Lord Lucifer. the Fallen Angel, is the Dreams had no dreams of his own: young David Bowie: Delirium the Prince of Stories lacked a tale. Neil Gaiman has remedied that. The Wake is a sober, sombre conclusion - literally, a dying fall - to a sequence that undeniably constitutes a major achievement. There is nothing quite like it any-

Charlotte the Obscure

Michael Arditti on the poet who might have said "kiss me, Hardy"

His Arms are Full of Broken Things by P B Parris, Viking, £16

o most contemporary readers. Charlotte Mew is Charlotte Who, the unfortunate rhyme emphasising the fate of a poet who was never admitted into the canon of great literature and is now rarely even allowed through the journeyman's door. And yet, as the epigraphs to P B Parris's fictionalised hingraphy make clear, Thomas Hardy revered her while Siegfried Sassoon declared her the equal of

Emily Brontê. With one major exception, Parris's fictional life sticks very closely to the factual account in Penelope Fitzgerald's admirable Charlotte Mew and Her

Her book is a first-person variant on Fitzgerald's thirdperson narrative, from the npening incident (the arrival of a doll's house designed by her architect father), to her final words ("Don't keep me. Let me go"). Even tiny details are the same, such as Charlotte banging her head against a wall when her heloved teacher retires, her adult voice veering as erratically as an adolescent boy's, and Frederick Rolfe

leaving lice on chairs. Mew's life was more deeply rooted in domesticity than even Stevie Smith's, and Partis vividly portrays the world of an upper-middle class family whose social position was . threatened not only by poverty. wrote much from her own

but by insanity. Two of Mew's siblings were incarcerated in asylums and . hoth she and her remaining sister, Anne, swore never to marry (in Charlotte's case this was clearly a way of rationalising her repressions). Although Parris describes her visit to Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, Mew's own drama was closer to the guilty secrets and hereditary curse of Strindberg's Ghosts.

Partis's chief invention is romance between Charlotte and Thomas Hardy (whom Fitzgerald records merely as an admirer of her poetry and an occasional host). Their love, declared after a chance meeting in the British Museum and left unconsummated for more

than 30 years, not only dominates Mew's life but influences both of their writings. To Parris, Hardy is the inspiration for Mew's poem "The Farmer's Bride". while Mew is the model for Sue Bridehead in Jude the

Like Mew's own poetry

(liberally quoted here), Parris's novel is strongest in the depiction of loneliness and unrequited love: not just the relationship with Hardy but Mew's two more authentic passions for the writers Ella D'Arcy and May Sinclair, both of whom receive her declaration with the contempt that "the normal heart," reserves for the deviant. No fictional character since Radclyffe Hall's Stephen Gordon has been more obviously propelled into lesbianism than Parris's Mew. who wears her dead father's clothes and is hlithely told by her mother that "You must he the man of the family,

Charlotte".
Parris's richly imagistic prose is particularly suited to conveying the isolated intensities of childhood. It is less successful at evoking the more complex weh of adult

Nor does it provide the thematic, symbolic or intellectual unity required of a novel. It remains a fictionalised biography rather than hiographical fiction. Chronology becomes its only guiding principle, with a resultant lack of weight. One understands why Mew, who experience (however . disguised), became a poet and a short-story writer rather than a novelist.

Parris's Hardy advises Mew that she should write "those stories - however extraordinary or unorthodox that one would never relate to one's family at the dinner

The problem for Parris. herself is that stories of sexual ambiguity and murky. been unrepeatable in polite Victorian society are commonplace today. Nevertheless, what the book lacks in force, it makes up for in imagery. Mew has been fortunate in drawing such a distinguished stylist to her

Ambulance chasers

Marcel Berlins takes a crash course in fraud

Accidentally on Purpose: the making of a personal injury underworld in America by Ken Domstein, Macmillan, £19.50

here is a scene in the 1967 film Meet Whiplash Willie (in England, The Fortune Cookie) in which an amhulance-chasing shyster lawyer played by Walter Matthau is trying to persuade a foothall player slightly hurn during a game to launch a lawsuit for compensation for his injuries. "I hate to hreak it to you. kid, hut you got a spinal injury ... your left leg is numb and you got no teeling in the first three fingers of your right hand." "You're crazy." the Jack Lemmon character replies, "I can move my hand. And my leg." "Sure you can - if you want to blow a million hucks ... that's what we're suing for."

The craze for lirigation hased on whiplash – neck – injuries lasted through the Sixtics and Seventies. Insurance companies paid out hillions of dollars to claimants who were inventing their injuries entirely or, at best, creatively exaggerating them. But the whiplash phenomenon was just one small part of an unpublicised American industry: a criminal underworld devoted to the faking of personal injuries.

This is not a book about a few slippery lawyers and doctors conspiring with greedy accident

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victims to talk up their symptoms and prognoses in order to exact additional compensation. Those scams exist hut are the small beer of the trade. What Ken Dornstein describes in Accidentally on Purpose is a veritable gangland of ruthless, sophisticated operators using modern methods to defraud insurance companies out of huge

Here is one example: the "capper" is the planner, the choreographer, whose job is to stage an accident that will look like the real thing and lead to multiple claims. He hires "dummies", the victims, often poor Hispanic immigrants. For as little as \$100 each, they will pack into a car ["the squat car") thar they know will be involved in an accident. The capper then hires a specialist driver whose joh is to provoke an innocent trucker into crashing into the squat car.

The logistics are carefully planned: where, when and what kind of impact is required. The accident achieved, the dummies file their injury claims with the help of dishonest lawyers. Of course, they don't receive a cent of the proceeds. Occasionally, the staging goes wrong and the dummies are hurt badly or even killed. Recently, an attorney who masterminded these "swoop-andsquar" operations was indicted for his part in the death of a passenger in a squat car.

Dorostein started his career as a private investigator in Los Angeles, looking into suspicious accidents. His book describes dozens of varieties of contemporary scams. But his exhaustive historical trawl is even more intriguing.

The sheer imagination and expertise of some past fraudsters is

impressive. In the early, joluing days of rail travel, there was "railway spine", an alleged injury caused by sudden movements. "Slip-andfallers" have been around for a century: "Banana Annie" carried her own peels for slipping on.

One frequent claimant was capable, at will, both of dislocating her bones, and of haemorrhaging. Another regular had the advantage of a neck which, under X-ray, always showed up as hroken. During the Depression years the fad was for self-mutilation, with the cleverer claimants managing to cash in from several companies on the hasis of one "accidental" атризаціол.

Along the way. Dornstein divertingly investigates the terminology of his subject. The term "amhulance chaser" originally not the lawyer, but his tout - entered the language in the 1890s and was in common use by 1910. Shyster, to mean a dishonest lawyer, did not come, as is usually helieved, from the nefarious activities of Sheuster, a New York attorney; Dornstein has discovered an earlier use and, besides, can find no trace of the existence of Sheuster.

Accidentally, on Purpose contains a great deal of information which has never before been assembled, on a topic which has never before been so scrutinised. Domstein has done prodigious research this references amount to 70 pages) and does not always resist the temptation to tell us too much. On the other hand the book is clearly written, contains many interesting and obscure facts, and provides an insight into yet another, hitherto secret,



Seduced by the smoke

Dear London: notes from the big city by Irma Kurtz, Fourth Estate, £14.99

hy should Irma Kurtz ever get married? She's already married to Lo...
don. Having walked out on New York and her flaming affair with Paris, she chose her poison, "amhivalent, self-searching, diffident, handsome, tolerant, widespread, whingeing, ironical, iaid hack, lazy old Smoke".

She is one of the spunky expats who arrived in London in the pre-swinging days when ladies still wore white gloves. And the city lifted her on wave after wave. But she was always too sharp and voluble to play the dozy hippie role convincingly.

Kurtz is rare among women hecause she loves great cities with an almost erotic passion: the glimpse of a courtyard, a lighted window, can make her tumescent for the never-to-betotally possessed loved one. Not that she hasn't tried - she spent years hurrowing in its boroughs, but is now ensconsed in the thick

I first saw her striding into work in a hig advertising agency in Berkeley Square. She was just over from Paris, sporting an existentialist pallor and a black plastic mac. Even the mac

radiated urban romance. But she was out of that boring job fast and soon found a more suitably eccentric niche with the chef, Robert Carrier, in Islington. One day she tossed off an article, "Love in Capital Cities," and sent it to Harpers Bazaar. When they sent it hack she posted it off to the shiny new publication Nova.

Jill Neville shares the urban ecstasy of an agony aunt who married the metropolis

Dennis Hackett, the fahled editor of Nova, phoned and asked her to join the staff. Irma Kurtz was in at last. "Jouroalism is to England as hullfighting is to Spain," she wries, "a daring national sport that offers youngsters with the guts for it a chance to pull themselves up out of pedestrian destinies. Hopeful scribblers from the English-speaking world are drawn to London the way hopeful toreros are to the

Spanish capitals. No more the longueur of office johs.

Overnight, all her had habits became virtues: rhe talkativeness, the inquisitiveness, the unstoppable communicativeness. She interviewed every celeh in and out of town and wrote it all up with sleek audacity.

Being young, she was programmed for romance. She found that "the English lover uses a crab-like circumlocution, a sort of scuttling at the most basic declaration, which also serves to confuse amorous predators of the Opposite sex".

But she's fond of the poor brutes, "stuck with flashy genitalia that can't be trusted to keep a secret, let alone keep faith". For this female Don Juan, men are lovable creatures hut you wouldn't want to live with one.

Instead, she had her beloved son by an artist equally ferocious about not getting married; this was not fashionable at the time.

Her pivotal friendships are curious, often floundering through lack of trust, or perhaps some self-protective reflex designed to keep lots of cool space around her psyche so the whole city can crowd in. She doesn't enjoy for-mality and is phobic about dinner parties, particularly the emhalmed or hitchy kind that she imagines occur nightly in North London.

Kurtz is strictly a streer and bar-room flâneuse, always talking, explicit, explosive, exponential, experimental, expostulatory, and excited. While there's the lovely dirty city. there's life - although she can see the squalor. it's not the main thing.

When Cosmopolitan made her an agony aunt, she found her métier. "I've been a busybody since the day I was born and it was about time someone paid for what I'd been handing out free all my life." She has been at it now for more than 20 years and still ir doesn't bore

There's no whiff of phoniness about thislove letter to London, written with hristling intelligence and all the iromes of hindsight, only occasionally falling into journalese. We can go to sleep knowing the city is throbbing away, stuffed with gangsters, drifters, bohemians, businessmen and trumpeting bores, presided over by our benevolent American-born agony aunt. Only this urban cowgirl, with her endless readiness to be intrigued could take the whole city to bed with her every night. That's love indeed.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الدُعل

DJ Taylor on plain men in dark times

The Pardon of Saint Anne by William Palmer, Cape, £9.99 The World at Night by Alan Furst HarperCollins, £16.99

ovels about the emotional consequences of warfare tend to take place off the battlefield. Even Vanity Fair, much of whose impetus derives from the battle of Waterloo, offers only a single military snapshot — George Osborne lying dead with a bullet in his heart. Similarly, one of the best English novels about the Second World War is Patrick Hamilton's The Slaves of Solinde (1947), set in a Thames Valley boarding house, where the tyramy is practised. house, where the tyramy is practised by domineering old armchair-loungers and the victims are browbeaten spinsters. While the heroes of William Palmer's and Alan Furst's new novels are both combatants of a kind, each seems exercised less by sudden death than by the emotional detachment canvassed in Hamilton's title. In these circumstances the dangers of flight are regularly anaesthetised by the promise of a brief recall from the disembodied halfstate that war imposes on the average mind. As Furst's protagonist puts it, while contemplating his enforced departure from occupied Paris, "The preparation of an escape ... whatever else it did, showed you your life from an angle of profound reality."

How best to approximate that reality? It was Christopher Isherwood, back in the days of Herr Issyvoo and Sally Bowles, who popularised the idea of the protagonist as camera lens. The precedent has not been a happy one, and most novels with photographer heroes have a tendency to enmire themselves in rather hanal theorising about the nature of pictorial representation. Fortunately Walther Klinger, the focus - no pun intended - of William Palmer's excellent fourth novel, affects a less exalted gaze: "I had a haif-apprehended vision of being the cold, implacable eye that regards human folly" he remarks; the laureate of "the gob of phiegm as life

4.

Walther has a good many oppor- in control, and balances his day job tunities. The opening section of The with covert help for a Jewish art Pardon of Saint Anne. in fact, is a series of snapshots pulled from the reel of a disintegrating world. Living in the French-occupied part of western Germany with his widowed, English mother, Walther acquires his first camera from a French officer with whom the mother seems to be having an affair, Subsequent instruction, both in darkroom techniques and seduction strategies, comes courtesy of Valenti, an itinerant Jack-the-Lad who sets himself up as the little spa town's official photographer.

Departing for Berlin in the dog some rarefied hobby, carries tre- one rather feels that Alan Furst, in oovel seems over-modest.



'Chronicle of evil': Hitler, Albert Speer (right) and Leonard Gatt inspect the construction of the House of German Art in Munich

days of Weimar to lodge with his mendous psychological conviction. decayed Junker grandmother, Appropriately eoough it is Cap-Walther finds his horizons sharply tain Wahl's anthropological retransformed in "an atmosphere of searches, prosecuted by way of a trip to the ecclesiastical ceremony abandonment - of morals and conviction and hope". A lifetime's contacts are insufficient to save of the title, which set up the oovel's climax. Surviving a resistance-laid worldly Uncle Karl from the knock car bomb that kills another of his at the door, and Walther's decision colleagues, Wahl is charged with to spend the period of his uncle's sifting through the dead man's abduction in hed with a girlfriend belongings. Otto's photographs of ("I don't even remember ber the execution squads of the Eastturned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the Thirties – and the Isherwood concection, if slight, is upavoidable – nal, where Valenti is energetically the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the East-turned brown, grey, dead again." name") seems symptomatic of the execution squads of the execution sq Unohirusively done, with the sented with a definitive choice, photographic symbolism quietly

shifted ioto place - "It was the Age of silver. Silver and black," Walther laconically remarks of the rise of making films acceptable to the the SS - The Pardon of Saint Anne is an impressive study of the effect of totalitarianism on the average emotional life. At present William Palmer's reputation languishes in that queer hinterland where the esteem of fellow-writers is cancelled out by the indifference of the world at large. It would be a shame if this novel didn't provoke the attention be clearly deserves.

With jacket salutations from officers, each seeking solace in William Boyd and Robert Harris,

contrast, has already begun to get his just deserts. Set in occupied Paris circa 1940-41, and featuring a movie-director hero, The World at Night bits some similar targets. Leaving aside the lavishly-framed atmosphere of subterfuge, Furst's novel is huilt on more or less the same premise: the individual trying to retain some tiny sense of himself in an increasingly unreal world. Like Palmer, Furst is adept at conveying the sense of drift that draws his characters into situations they would probably have avoided if pre-

Thus womanising, fortysomething Casson finds that the simple act of pursuing his livelihood - by authorities - drags him into an intricate web of collusion, complicated by an affair with an clusive actress. If anything undermines the novel, it's a slight feeling of genre-sanc-tioned theatricality (Eric Ambler's name is twice invoked). But even the tuppence-coloured love interest - all discarded stockings and small-hours cigarettes - can't detract from an absorbing piece of recreated time, for which the publishing taxonomy of "historical spy

David Cesarani on a new life of Hitler's henchman

The Good Nazi: the life and lies of Albert Speer by Dan Van Der Vat Weidenfeld, £20

he fascination of Albert Speer's story is undeniable, even for generations born long after the war he did so much to sustain on the German side. Speer was a well-educated, cultured German converted to Nazism after witnessing Hitler speak. He entered the Party in March 1931, aged 25, and for the next 14 years his meteoric career was bound up with the party, the Third Reich and the Führer.

Speer had good looks, intelligence, energy, charisma and luck. His life is a classic success story intertwined with a chronicle of evil, which is what makes it so piquant. We can easily identify with the charming, gifted and upwardly mobile young professional; the

trouble is, he's a Nazi. Two years ago, Gitta Sereny orahly fell under his spell. In his

published a monumental study of Speer that probed the other endlessly fascinating aspect of his life. At the Nutemberg Tribunal, Speer was ooc of two defendants to accept responsibility for the crimes of Hitler's regime, although he denied specific knowledge of its hemous acts. He convinced the judges of his repentance but there- marked by long historical digresafter argument has raged about sions. It is additionally marred by what he knew and whether his con- some sloppy writing, flippa trition was genuine. To answer asides and appalling word jokes, these questions. Sereny interviewed Speer exhaustively and jux-solid hiography. Van Der Vat taposed his oral recollections against a mass of other evidence.

Dan Van Der Vat began work on his book about Speer when Screny's tome was already on the slipway. He decided to await the latter's publication so that he could use it as a "source", while deliberately eschewing the interview method which made it distinctive. Van Der Vat claims that anyone who got too close to Speer inexbibliography he naughtily lists Sereny shiography under "Speer's corpus". But this device cannot deflect an inevitable comparison of the two works, in which Van Der Vat comes off the worst.

He presents little significant new information about Speer's life and work. In place of Sereny's penetrating osychological analysis. he delivers a few, commonplace observations about the effect of Speci's loveless upbringing. Whereas Screny inquired deeply into the mutual admiration which Hitler and Speer displayed, he gives short shrift to the notion of a homo-erotic attachment and harely pauses to ask why the two struck up such an enduring friendship. "It was the participants, not their 'relationship' or its well springs, that were extraordinary."

If Sereny devoted too much attention to the relationship, this was a result of her creditable effort to humanise both men and to understand their motives. Van Der Vat is content with shallow psychohiography and stereotypes, which do the work of explanation. What his study lacks in depth is barely compensated for in its breadth.

He basically accepts Speer's version of the "production miracle" in 1942-44, even though recent research has challenged it. Weapons output rose not because German industry became more efficient, as Speer suggested, but because he bullied industrialists into converting civilian production lines to armaments manufacture.

Van Der Vat merely confirms Speer's indifference to the fate of the Jews. The November 1938 pogrom had no impact on him. Speer hrushed up against the Final Solutioo sufficiently often to render his denial of knowledge incredible; but he just didn't care.

Van Der Vat's central charge is that Speer was personally instrumental in evicting 75,000 Berlin Jews in 1941-42, thus ensuring their doom. He knew this was a crime and struggled to cover it up, arrang-ing for the chronicle of his ministry to be "sanitised". While taking broad responsibility for the deeds of the regime, he omitted from his biography any reference to his own particular role. Van Der Vat argues that since his "confession" was incomplete, his famous remorse could not have been genuine. It was part of a strategy of self-preservation and manipulation that he began while awaiting trial in 1945.

Like Sereny's tome, this one is scores some hits, notably his demolition of Speer's claim that he seriously considered assassinating Hitler. His use of the secret chronicle is impressive. Ultimately, however, because his approach lacks psychological depth, the critique of Speer sounds peevish. Speer may have beguiled Sereny, but because she engaged with him, she produced a magisterial portrait of human folly which overshadows Van Der Vat's workmanlike effort.

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Independent choice: science books

By Bernard Dixon

Stupid things, mirrors," the comedian Tony Hancock said in is in front of it ... is not in the mirror or or the light, "Gregory writes. "It is in our perception. If we were things properly?" For many years, the neuropsychologist Richard Gregory has persisted in believing that Hancock's question deserves an answer and that many of those on offer are plainly wrong. His mission has been to show that our experience of mirrors, and of optical illusions, can belo us to think about the still mysterious processes of perception. With ahundant examples drawn not only from science but also from art, psychology and other domains, his latest book Mirrors in Mind (WH Freeman/ Spektrum, £25] brings these issues to life with exceptional clarity and

Hancock's irritation stemmed from the fact that things seen in a lookingglass are reversed from left to right, hut not top to bottom. "Mirror writing", for example, does not appear upside down. But this is by no means the only oddity. Look at each of your eyes alternately in a mirror. They do not appear to move. Yet a friend's eyes clearly do move if you ask him or her to look at one of your eyes and

then the other. Why? As Richard Gregory indicates, the first step towards understanding these phenomena is to realise that they raise questions at all. Gregory is an illuminating pilot, leading us through many competing interpretations to his goal of establishing that perception is not a passive acquisition of information from the outside world. It is an active process in which our hrain uses past experience as well as

"The paradox of seeing oneself of intelligence per se but also an exam- days, through a quasi-Darwinian Penrose's own thinking. incoming sensory cues.

either more or less stupid, such paradoxes might change, or disappear, or become even richer."

photographer whose business be

from while the woman moulders

Abruptly, time fast-forwards to spring 1944 to find Walther, most

of his hearing gone in a bomb blast,

part of a "crocks brigade" guarding

the extreme south-west coast of

France and embroiled with an Irish-

woman who inhabits a deserted

farmhouse. In a world where every

action and thought is governed by

the prospect of invasion, Palmer's

account of the collection of Nazi

away in the seclusion of her flat.

Mirrors also appear in How Brains Think: Evolving Intelligence, Then and Now (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99). The neurophysiologist William Calvin describes how some animais can recognise themselves in a mirror, while others try to attack or befriend the reflected image. A capuchin mookey will spend weeks threatening the "other animal" when a mirror is placed in its cage, whereas chimpanzees know who it is either immediately or within a few days.

Calvin considers and then eliminates the idea of self-recognition as something that intelligence is not. He discards IQ, loo, because it is simply "one fascinating aspect of intelli-gence", which should not subsume others. The capacity for complex behaviour is another tempting definition of intelligence, but not a plauwired in from birth.

Jean Piaget's notion that intelligence is what you use when you don't know what to do: "This captures the element of novelty, the coping and grop-ing needed when there is no 'right answer'." Yet this seems not to be the entire story, either. Likewise with speed of learning, which is simply related to intelligence". Perhaps, Calvin concludes, intelligent behaviour is really the capacity to combine these and other mental abilities:

His book is not only an assessment



Pick of the week Mirrors in Mind by Richard Gregory

ination of how evolution has produced increasingly intelligent brains over the last few million years. Calvin brings both strands together by modemising William James's suggestion that thought involves Darwin's concept of the selection of randomly generated novelty. He points to abrain wiring that could operate the fullyfledged Darwinian process, and probsible one because it can be innate, ably on the milliseconds-to-minutes time-scale of consciousness." This, he Calvio is much more taken by says, "has provided me with the best glimpses so far of mechanisms for higher intellectual function; how we can guess, speak scotences we've never spokeo before, and even oper-

ate on a metaphorical plane." By no means all Calvin's peers will follow him in discerning Darwin beneath our mental life. Yet it is a challenging theory, founded on a variety of evidence. It requires only a change of time-scale to sound highly plausible: the capacity of cells in the mmune system to generate within

process, antibodies to match an astronomical range of antigens which they

encounter in invading microbes.

Paul Martin, in The Sickening
Mind: Brain, Behaviour, Immunity and Disease (HarperCollins, £16.99) is concerned not with the analogy between mind and the immune system, but with the emerging links between the two. His primary task is to explain how stress and depression may increase our chances of developing infections, heart disease and even cancer. The "may" is important. not least because evidence that we can prevent illness by mobilising mental resources is less overwhelming than popular health books claim.

However, Martin is a sure guide in this controversial field - and an etoquent one. Like Richard Gregory, he bases his case in part on the observations of Shakespeare and other literary giants of the past. But it is contemporary science which most strongly supports his contention that the relationship of mind to health is mediated both by our behaviour, and by hiological connections between the brain and the immune system.

Contemporary science is not yet ready to endorse Sir Roger Penrose's elegantly argued suggestion that consciousness itself is associated with the microrubules in brain cells. In The Large, the Small and the Human Mind (Cambridge University Press, £14.95), the Oxford mathematician is joined by his critics Abner Shimony, Nancy Cartwright and Stephen Hawking, to review Penrose's theory that thinking takes place by "non-computational" means. The jury is still out, but this book is a stimulating and compact review of

'Aspicts' of Oz

Pete Davies treks through the outback

Australia by Mark McCrum Sinclair-Stevenson, £9.99

No Worries: a journey through

once asked a Kiwi if the Maoris ever went to Australia. She said she didn't know, but if they did they'd have thought, Nab. Big hot dry huggery place, this. home - and there are times when Mark McCrum evidently felt the same. Halfway through his book, he sets off round Broome "pessimistically seeking adventure", and I had by then rather come to share his pessimism.

Euroteens drearily mating in backpacker hostels; people keeping him awake on the train; endless eucalyptuses it may well get him down, and when his girl-friend comes to visit (did we really need to know about that?) it may well make him homesick. But I did wonder whether a travel writer who gets homesick is, just possibly, in the wrong

line of trade. These longueurs are a shame; in a hitty way, there's good material here. Tumbling out of English history towards its place on the Pacific Rim like an overweight gymnast uncertaio how he'll land, Australia is certainly a subject crying out for better coverage. Between the bright froth of the cities and the harsh outback, McCrum

suggests well enough how the country is a thin necklace of the modern world, tentatively slung round the parched vastness of its unfathomable

interior.

But too often he struggles for focus. Australians keep asking, of his book about their home: "What aspict?" In the end, I wasn't too sure what aspect he was after myself. Backpackers aside, he meets a varied cast of characters, and he hears their voices well.

He makes a game stah at understanding the plight of the Aboriginals; he offers lively cameos of the gay scene; he captures the rich and baffling ethnic mix, and he gives intriguing glimpses of the country's green activists. Some are stoned humbleheads, some (notably those in in Tasmania) impressively persuasive. But 100 rarely does he stop long enough with any one of these

handle oo it. Some of McCrum's stroogest material comes in set pieces in the outback: for instance, in the brutal business of cattle mustering by four-wheel drive and helicopter, or the tragically weird account of an ancient and internationally renowned Aboriginal painter knocking out masterpieces in half an hour. (She gets a few hundred dollars for them, but they

then sell in galleries for a

matters to get a thorough

hundred times that much). But every time you feel that he's at last getting down into the red dirt of the place, he bounces hack off it, as if Australia is just 100 strange as if he can't leave his Englishness behind.

Bill Bryson's success, is that publishers now want every travel writer to he funny. McCrum, certainly, can be wilty and engaging - but too many flip asides, too many subjects closed off with a quip and a shrug, make in the end for an incomplete read. They also sit oddly beside the book's extensive. insufficiently edited chunks of interviews with people who are sometimes extremely interesting, and sometimes quite the opposite. The result is neither fish

nor fowl. Early on, McCrum

is advised by a Melbourne salesman that if he wants commercial success Down Under, his hest approach is to "Tyke the piss" - and when he does so, it's often sharp. But to his credit, he's evidently not cruel or insensitive enough to go all the way down that road, and when he trips up over dark secrets, or gnaws away at troubling issues, humour fades ioto unresolved concern. Eventually you want to cry out: Could you make your mind up? Do you like it or don't you? Or, indeed, what

Perhaps the problem, after

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Paperbacks

By Boyd Tonkin

Last Orders by Graham Swift (Picador, £5.99) In the 1996 Booker winner, four veteran Sarf Londoners carry their hutcher-pal's ashes to Margare in a son of latterday Camerbury Tale. Marked hy deep craft and complex decency, this seems nonetheless to be a novel that many readers admire rather than love. Why? Swift is that irouhlesome animal, a writer's writer. As with subtle chamber music, his weaving of the four distinct voices as they review their tangled lives may wow the pros hut leave the laity cold. Still, it's hard to fault the stoic wisdom of this rueful crew as they approach their terminus (in every sense). "What you've got to understand is the nature of the goods. Which is perishable."

How to be a Minister by Gerald Kaufman (Faber, £8.99) The Commons' hesi (and only?) expert on classic Hollywood musicals dusts down his 1980 primer on another kind of song-anddance, Aimed at promoted party hacks with their hands on the Red Boxes at last. Kaufman's guide to survival in Whitehall advises officeholders how to stop the wiles of the civil service from turning them "into a pod straight out of Invasion of the Body Snatchers". Robust. witty and sardonic, his book only loses the plot in its dated anecdotes. Tales of Our Hero, in his glory days of the 1970s, trumping the Sir Humphreys to rescue a widget mill in Pontefract or Dewsbury have all the sepia charm of a Wakes Week photo alhum, Laugh? I almost went out for beer and sandwiches with the TUC.

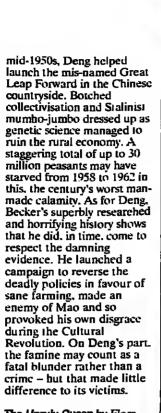
Hungry Ghosts: China's secret famine by Jasper Becker (John Murray, £13) The media requiems for Deng Xiaoping have given the impression that only the Tiananmen Square carnage seriously blotted the Great Reformer's copyhook. Yet, in his loyal Maoist days of the



Don't miss The Tahloid next Thursday for details of the 1997 Story of the Year competition. First prize is £2,000, with £500 for the two runners up - and to celehrate the competition's fifth birthday, we will be awarding a special trophy to all three. The winning story

will be published in the Independent Magazine, and the top 10 stories will appear in a specially commissioned anthology from Scholastic Children's Books. So sharpen those pencils - and find out on Thursday about another

celebrity's bedtime stories.



The Unruly Queen by Flora Fraser (Papermac, £10) Although there are sinister parallels between our current version of the Princess of Wales and poor Caroline of Brunswick, whose fate it was to marry the Prince Regent in 1795 - they both suffered from crowded marriage syndrome, caused constitutional uproar by separating from their husbands and were suspicious of palace courtiers - Diana wins hands down when it comes to fashion. Caroline, as Flora Fraser notes in this excellent hiography, was a short, dumpy sloven who owned nothing but coarse petticoats, wore her stockings inside out and, on the eve of her wedding, had to be given "some frank instructions about her washing habits" by Lord Malmesbury. It's hardly surprising that Caroline finally took revenge on her adopted country, attempting to slorm Parliament during the Coronation and asking while on a visit to inspect the maimed pensioners at Greenwich Hospital: "Do all Englishmen have only one



Scene of a crime: before and after view of the vandalised figures of Henry Moore's sculpture, The King and Queen PHOTO: FRANK RYAN

Smash and gal

James Hall wonders why so many critics have joined the demolition business

The Destruction of Art; Iconoclasm and Vandalism since the French Revolution by Dario Gamboni, Reaktion Books, £25

fter a day at the British Museum in 1855, the American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne announced with the confidence born of belonging to a youthful nation: "We do not recognize for rubbish what is really rubhisb". Four years later, he was even more forthright in The Marble Faun, a novel set in Rome. "All towns should be made capable of purification by fire, or of decay within each half-century. Otherwise, they become the hereditary haunts of vermin and noisomeness,

of Dario Gamboni's The Destruction of An, a well-illustrated and levelheaded study of iconoclasm and vandalism since the French Revocurrently a growth industry, hut what makes Gamboni's book particularly useful is his refusal to limit himself to high-profile attacks on public sculpture, whether they he Communist monuments in eastern Europe or avant-garde sculptures like Richard Serra's "Tilted Arc". He also discusses more subtle and legalised forms of iconoclasm, perpetrated from above by artists.

restorers and museum officials.

recent advertising campaign urging us to "chuck out your chintz". Gamboni starts with the French Revolution because destruction and preservation were linked here as never before. Monuments to the ancien regime were systematically destroyed, and artworks stripped from palaces and churches. The worst instance of revolutionary vandalism (the term was coined in 1794) occurred in the abbey of St Denis, where the kings of France had been buried since the middle

terrupted demolition. Bui from this holocaust arose the idea of patrimony and national her-itage. The best old-master paintings besides standing apart from the were taken to the Louvre, which Cultural cleansing is the subject. This action was justified on the grounds that, although many art works were dedicated to the ruling classes. They were also testaments to the work of artists, and embodied lution. The subject of iconoclasm is values that transcended the cir-

ages. There, 51 tombs were

destroyed during three days of unin-

cumstances of their commission. The revolutionaries found it much harder to accept the timeless artistic status of French sculpture. Nonetheless, the painter Alexander Lenoir did rescue some sculptures to establish the short-lived Museum of French Monuments. Lenoir provided the first chronological survey of French sculpture and wrote the first systematic catalogue. In order to make his points about the devel-

that clumsy restorers were more dangerous enemies of monuments than Protestants and sans-culottes.

Gamboni's best chapter explores the recent demise of communist monuments in Eastern Europe. Many statues were destroyed, and a particularly popular form of destruction was to put a cable round the neck of the figure and dangle it from a crane before dropping it on the ground. Symbolic banging is the fate that awaited the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the KGB. Nonetheless, the iconoclasm has

not been unanimously approved. Some Muscovites wanted the Dzerzhinsky monument to remain because it was "a part of our his-"this guy was a bastard". With hindsight, some monuments bave come to seem a lesser evil, for they are usually replaced by boardings for Coca-Cola and Mercedes-Benz.

Successors to Legoir's Museum of French Monuments have been established. A statue park was set up in Moscow near the Tretiakov Gallery (Russia's equivalent of the Tate). However, many statues were simply dumped on the ground in a fragmented and graffiti-covered state. Another sculpture park was opened in 1993 in Budapest: 61 monuments that bad suffered repeated attacks were sent there and a poem. "A Sentence on

1834, Prosper Mérimée observed Degenerate Art exhibitions. But no doubt they will soon seem as evocative as Roman ruins:

Gamboni brings together a great deal of fascinating information, but he does not really marshall his evidence into a sustained argument. The Destruction of Art reads a bit like an anthology of anecdotes. The trouble is that it is almost impossible to identify a psychology of iconoclasm. There are almost as many motives as iconoclasts. The most politically incorrect explanation is given in a cartoon from the 1960s by Ronald Searle, "The Philistines": disabled men threaten gigantic sculptural fragments representing the body part that lack.

In the past ten years, there has

lory". One woman had hoped to be been a flurry of works in which iconacademic studies, such as David Freedberg's The Power of Images (1989) to Andrew Graham-Dixon's TV series, A History of British Art (1996). A new genre of art-book doc-uments in detail the birth, life and death of a public sculpture: Richard Serra's "Titled Arc" (1991) or Rachel Whiteread's "House" (1995). So why is iconoclasm now heing brought into the open? The most obvious reason is that it is the perfect fin-de-siecle theme. It is as deathfixated as any hospital drama or film by Quentin Tarantino. Whereas a late-1980s artist like Jeff Koons was obsessed with sex, a 1990s superstar like Damien Hirst is primarily inter-Indeed, for Gamboni, our society opment of sculpture. however, is predicated on iconoclasm. An ohvious example would be the many works beyond recognition. In similar principle to the Nazis' many works beyond recognition.



books

he oddest revelations in Garry O'Connor's much-touted life of Peggy Ashcroft involve the great thespian's passion for cricket. Playing Margaret of Anjou at Stratford in 1963, the grande dame of the stage, tucked a radio transmitter into her bra during rehearsals so she could listen to the Test Match. She also organised a Lancashire-Yorkshire charity match: E M E Ashcroft, bowled Len Hutton, 16. Later, cricket chatter would sustain a long "chaste affair" with Harold Pinter.

Indeed, O'Connor's The Secret Woman (Weidenfeld, £20) omits to notice that - if you ignore her first and last husbands, and the passing trade -Dame Peggy's now-famous roster of Dame Peggy's now-famous roster of celebrity lovers makes up an eleven. This team hats all the way down, with a slight loss of sparkie in the middle: J B Priestley, Paul Robeson, Walter Sickert, Mark Dignam. Theodore Komisarjevsky, Michel Saint-Denis, Billy Buchan (John's son), Burgess Meredith, Tony Britton, William Devlin, George Devine. (Pinter could be the non-playing coach.) As a new be the non-playing coach.) As a new twist to the showbiz bio, this has potential. Coming soon: Dame Edith

Evans and the catenaccio defence.

After finishing O'Connor's book, you crave some escape from the stuitifying limits of its genre. As a "property" as well as a text, it reveals what's gone wrong with the tacky trade in private lives. Extracted in the press for the usual handsome fee attached to sex with the stars, the mushy passages that name those paramours will become the book for most of its audience. Few will bother now about its critical lapses.

Before she died in 1991, Dame Peggy worked with Michael Billington on a sound survey of her roles, from Juliet to The Jewel in the Crown. Sex, in other words, is all O'Connor has to sell, as he can't quote from letters (the children refused him permission). Even so, be fails to build a solid bridge between the turbulent off-stage soul and the regal, even chilly star. And his syntax brings to mind a knitting-basket after the attentions of a pair of frisky kittens. We even learn that "Harriet. Walter first met Peggy when she was 74" - had news for Ms Walter. But who needs an editor when the papers will bombard you with big cheques for soft-centred tittle-tattle? The book is a meretricious mnddle. And so is the publishing culture that wraps shabby goods in sensation-seeking hype.

Boyd Tonkin

Audiobooks



Classic Railway Murders (CSA Teiltapes, 2hrs 45 mins, £8.99) offers four tales from the age of steam. Wellcontrasted writers; first-rate production; versatile readings by Patrick Malahide. Plays work well heard rather than seen, especially when they offer, as the Wilde always does, an aphorism a minute. Lady Windermere's Fan (Naxos, lhr 43 mins, £7.99) is a topical tale in the context of today's moral panic, and the final scene between the mysterious Mrs Erlyane (Juliet Stevenson) and Lady Windermere (Sarah Fielding) is powerful theatre.

Christina Hardyment

The worm in the bud

Harriet Paterson slips into a smooth tale of eastern promise

by Alessandro Baricco. Harvill, £6.99

lessandro Baricco is hot puhlishing property in Italy, a rare commodity in a country where literary fiction is struggling to keep its head above water. He wins prizes with case for his novels, of which this is the third. An effortless little book. Silk is the work of an author who knows how to please - as do his publishers. who have wrapped the book in the smoothest, silkiest laminate you're likely to find. The text is set like a long prose poem, tiny chapters surrounded by acres of white space, encouraging the tranguil sensations which

reading the book produces. Hervé Joncour, a young 19th-century merchant, buys silkworms for a living. As an epidemic which affects the silkworms spreads through Europe, Herve travels furtherand further to had unhlemished eggs: heyond the Mediterranean, to Syria

and Egypt. The prosperity of his home town in the south of France depends upon his annual delivery.

Eventually the only country that remains uncontaminated is Japan. where foreigners are hanged on sight, but where silkworms superior to all others are rumoured to exist. Carrying a fortune in gold. Hervé must travel to the end of the world, smuggle himself into the forhidden country and procure the worms. He has an exactly circumscribed amount of time to make it back home hefore the eggs hatch.

The fact that a love story grows out of this already romantic premise comes as no surprise. Baricco makes spare hur sufficient use of ritual elements of Japanese sensuality as perceived by the western mind - hathing ceremonies, loose kimonos.

shadows on rice-paper walls. His writing shows an author in unquestioned control of his vocabulary, his phrases brief but precisely



The ease and high silken finish suggest that Baricco is coasting

cadenced - in Guido Waldman's translation, as in the original. Here there will he no image out of place, no unruly ordering of words. Perbaps the only stylistic lapse comes towards the end. where he indulges in a burst of stream-of-consciousness croticism which it is hard not to find comic in the midst of an otherwise restrained

Baricco is less interested in historical detail than in creating a broadly poetic tale which leaves bebind a number of distinct tableaux: a sky full of precious exotic birds released from their aviary, two men sitting

looking out over a lake where a concubine is swimming, an orange dress and two straw sandals left lying on the ground. The case and high silken

finish of the writing suggest that Baricco is coasting after his more substantial novels, especially Oceano Mare with its prohing questions about the nature of memory. Nevertheless, this small but perfectly formed novella offers an elegant and unfrenzied entry into his work; and if a writer wishes to switch from sustained narrative verse to the art of haiku, then who am I to

Surface tensions

Elisa Segrave faces the ugly truth about cosmetic surgery

by Joanna Briscoe.

Phoenix House, £16.99

ou will certainly never want a facelift after reading this novel. Its heroine Adèle Meier, a former beauty and a best-selling author who invented a subversive character called Loulou, finds herself in middle-age, living alone in Paris. She is no longer with Laurence, her great love, whom she met in New York as a young woman. Once, Laurence left his wife and baby for her. Now he has returned to England and married a conventional English wife.

Joanna Briscoe describes in graphic detail the facial operations Adèle embarks on in Paris in order to stave off the signs of approaching age: "the surgeon removed a string of fat from the patient's evelid. This was sbining yellow and lumpy in texture" while "the patient's cheek ... flopped over her ear, unattached, rooted only at the mouth, nose and eyes". In between each operation and its painful after-effects. Adèle's past unfolds. Her Austrian parents emigrated to Virginia with 14-year-old Adele, her older sister Kati and her two hrothers John and Karli. Her father ahandoned them for a local woman while Adèle was still a reenager. A few years later her mother died of a heart attack. Adèle went north,

first to New Jersey, then to New York. Adèle's narcissism in middle age makes her seem unsympathetic. We do not learn about her girlhood until later. I am not sure how far Briscoe intended to create such an immediately unlikeable character. Adele's cold-blooded seductions of two young men in Paris, undertaken

mainly to convince herself that she still has sexual power, are described with skilful eroticism. I must admit to envy-both of Briscoe for her writing and of Adèle herself for nailing two young men at her age. Nonetheless, this lack of emotion makes these scenes ultimately chilling. Indeed, apart from her love for her stepdaughter, Melina (hospitalised in England with anorexia), Adèle often seems so self-absorbed that I found it difficult to believe that she had written a best-selling book with universal appeal.

"Loulou has very exotic sex and manipulates men and says what most women only dare to think in their secret minds," Adèle says, explaining her book's success to an audience of fans in Paris. But although she has won acclaim for inventing a contemporary feminist idol, Adèle knows that she has always relied heavily on male admiration. "I always needed my Holy Grail, the male with his hormones and his gifts to me", she admits to herself. And yet, long ago in New York, dur-ing her heady period as a young beauty, she had already half realised the flip side of sexual magnetism. "I was exalted by men as I was injured by men. It's commonplace...men make you feel so terrihle, so high, you are their circus animal, pretty pelt and leash".

This accomplished, intelligent novel

throws up interesting questions. Are beautiful women different? Is ageing actually worse for them, because they are accustomed to depend on their looks? Do very beautiful women often become narcissistic when young?

In one poignant moment, while recovering from facial surgery, Adèle remembers the older women she used to see on grow old.

the Upper East Side where - in her twenties, at the height of her attractiveness she worked as personal secretary to a German banker's wife. She never gave these women and their face-lifts more than a passing thought hut now, alone in Paris, she recalls the "shark grins of effort stretching their features" and their eyes, "widened with simulated youth and yet precisely blank, a dull dead glitter".

Worrying, too late, about the cycle of operations she has inflicted on herself, she realises that she is no different from them. "The surgical interventions create a homogenised tribe; women who resemble each other, sisters under the skin,"

Skin has some beautiful passages, in particular when Adele tells how she and Laurence first fell in love. I also liked the descriptions of her youth in New York, where, after a stint in the Martha Washington women'a hostel and some unsatisfactory flat-shares, she settles with two girlfriends in "a brownstone in the dusty and blossomed upper reaches of Green-wich Village, on West 13th Street, where the white church struck bells and Sixth Avenue was a clutter of shoe repairers

and discount shops". There are also many memorable vignettes and pithy remarks about men, as when Laurence first makes love to her. "He was different, in the way that men are when they are erect and as vulnerable as boys with sticks, and sinewed and

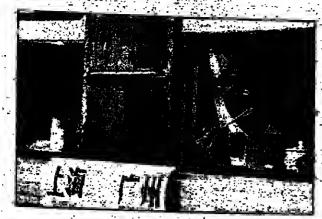
Biblical and alarming".

But I suspect that Skin will be remembered most for its powerful evocation of panic and loneliness: of that disturbing moment when every woman is forced to realise, for the first time, that she too will

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travel&coutdoors

Cathedral to coast in Devon and Cornwall 16/17 Will wolves roam the Highlands again? 18 The garden rescuers .. 19



Crossing six time zones, the Trans-Mongolian Express breaks many other barriers PHOTOGRAPHS PLANDMANNESS



This afternoon a party of intrepid British astronomers departs from Moscow by train for Mongolia and China. Nine years ago, Jeremy Atiyah travelled the other way, through a quite different world

east, but the Russian capital could have been a light fog over Alexanderplatz still had the sad smell of coal dust and Communism, but Uodaunted, I returned that evening I didn't care. Metres away, coconed in with a bottle of brandy which I drank all demonstrations and one memento of the Ku'damm, was a girl called Xiaosong, whole of Russia to cross. dressed in red for her first day in the free ... The Soviet Union arrived at midnight

books

in the restaurant car of a train somewhere in the vicinity of Mongolia? Professor Zhang and his comrades were eating. their last Chinese dinner, and teaching me Yes, China was that bad. All these wornout intellectuals were leaving their families for the sake of science studentships in Continectal Europe. Only Xiaosong in the outsized red coat was different, she plonked herself at the table with a smile to light up the wintry Mongolian steppe for ever. "Literature," she whispered in a pure, scamless accent. "In Deutschland. You don't speak German?" I didn't.

"Oh yes," Professor Zhang confided in me the next morning. M-m-m-many Chinese girls want to m-m-m-marry Western men." Outside, the sun shone weakly on to a treeless, snow-flecked land and I wondered why he was telling me this. It transpired that he was carrying in his . pocket lists of Chinese womeo seeking marital alliances with Western men. But apart from me, the only other man in our carriage was a melancholy Yugoslav with a suitcase full of vodka.

The crowded carriages at the other end of the train were more promising for thoughts of marriage. Xiaosong was there for a start. I decided to visit her, hauling open the connecting carriage-doors one by ooe, exposing myself to the din of wheels and hlasts of ferocious winter. Io the last carriage. I found her enscooced in a compartment with a group of Chinese boys, also, perhaps, going to West Ger-

many to study literature. "Oh no. We are going to East Germany," one of them explained. "To work in the mines."

I was mumbling something about short straws when one Erhard Kempe suddenly arrived from the bathroom. He had a

oscow was only 24 hours -morose expression and pronounced Ger- arrival io Moscow. Instead, the platform many 'Charmany'. East German police? year back down the track. flukey West German tourist from Han-That winter in Berlin the nover with a berth in the same compartment as Xiaosong.

its wall, West Berlin was a city of dreams. by myself. I ate Xlaosong's chocolates Its centre comprised budget supermar- impulsively, admired her tape of Chinese kets, designer sex shops, oogoing student , pop music and requested that she write out the incomprehensible lyrics of one of Secood World War: the ruined Kaiser the songs, "Maybe in Winter". Erhard Wilhelm Church. Somewhere out there, fought back by embarking on a lengthy among the punks in Bahnhof Zoo and the explanation of the "Charman" education grandes dames wearing fur coats on system. Fortunately, we still had the

West. On a winter's day in the city of with lights on the snow, a watch-tower, dreams, I was looking for a girl from Com- barbed wire, and soldiers in long coats munist China. running beside the train. "I h-h-hate Rus-Was it only seven days since we had met, sia," said Professor Zhang in a highpitched whisper, as blond meo probed at his bulging briefcase. Chugging alongside Lake Baikal later, I sat alone, mouthing the meaningless sounds of "Maybe in how to use chopsticks. "This is the b-b-best "Winter", while the frozen lake buckled day of our lives," giggled the professor. and cracked and heaped itself into mounds of rubble, shining a mysterious blue against the snow-laden sky. .

Professor Zhang was obsessed with my conjugal status. He appeared daily at my doorway, asking wheo I would marry. Not in the near future, I barked, tetchily. Siberia, and Erhard's long-winded accounts of German history, were wearing me down. For three days, the landscape consisted of melancholy birch forests, interspersed by villages of wooden houses suffocating under the continuous snow. At Nevosibirsk I changed money with a man in a dirty coat; at Sverdlovsk I bought a hard-boiled egg. On the last day Xiaosoog dropped by to give me a contact address - in Hannover.

There was oo red carpet for our final

Express yourself

and Peking, with connections from Western Europe and to Hong Kong. Most travellers make the week-long journey in only one direction, and fly the other. A basic round trip of a flight from London to Moscow, train to Peking and onwards to Hong Kong, with a flight back to London, would cost about £750 through companies such as Bridge the World (0171-911 0900), Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) and the Russia Experience (0181-566 8846). There are endless stopover possibilities, but these can add substantially to the cost.

was covered in a thick, dirty slush. In dribs I wish he had been. He turned out to be a and drabs, the passeogers from China transferred across town to Belarusskaya Station, where I volunteered to stand in a Soviet queue to make our onward reservations to Berlin. I stood in it, heroically, for four hours.

> Only in mid-afternoon was I ready for a touristic rampage round Moscow with my Chinese hride-to-be. As it turned out, Xiaosong had already asked Professor Zhang and eight other Chinese friends to join us, along with Erhard Kempe. Never mind. Wet, romantic snow was falling as darkness fell. I saw uneveo pavements, pink stucco and tall women on the underground escalators with pale faces and furry hats. In the streets, the last rays of a maverick sun suddenly fell on to the spires of the Kremlin. En masse, we stormed the Hotel Rossiya on Red Square for a round of vodkas, for which I ostentatiously emptied my wallet.

From Moscow to Berlin, we still had another 24 hours of Pot Noodles and Chinese tea, but by now emotional excitement and brandy was destroying my mind. The train was crowded and overheated, and I awoke to the sounds of raucous, collective snoring. Discomfited, I sat in the half-lit corridor to wait for a grey day to slide past over Poland. Outside, on the plains, the last shreds of snow had almost gone.

Professor Zhang was jubilant at having smuggled his dollars through Russia in the lining of his briefcase: Erhard was waxing ever more eloquent as we approached his homelaod. But I was tired. And when they appeared; the East German border police - with their fat faces, military accents, torches, peaked caps and shining boots - looked remarkably like unreconstructed Nazis. Our helongings were microscopically examined; Professor Zhang was suddenly ordered to leave the train. Horror! There he was, now speechless with fear, putting on three pairs of trousers, manically packing away his pots and cups and chopsticks. The last we saw of him, he stood alone, a little man on the platform beside a ton of luggage. The winter took on a nightmarish hue.

East Berlin was on us before we knew it, and Xiaosong was the next to disappear. The Ostbahohof was infernally dark, packed with shricking, groaning engines and hissing with jets of steam; Soviet soldiers io long coats stood like ghosts in the shadows. One minute Xiaosongwas there - the next she had gone. I had visions of a plot. Victims picked off one by one! I hlundered about emotionally in the darkness, convinced that no one could escape Communism in winter.

Amid the panic, a familiar face loomed out of the darkness: Erhard Kempe. "Ver

is the young lady?" he exclaimed, roughly. Well, at least he dido't know either. Instead he angrily escorted me through the darkness to the West Berlin train where I found the only remaining Chinese, Yu Wei, in a colossal furry hat, mumbliog through his hand about wanting to see the West. He bad just two minutes to wait. The train creaked through Alexanderplatz and then over the Berlin Wall itself. The ghastly no-man's-land with its floodlights illuminating the death-strip

inspired Yu Wei, oddly, to start invoking Proust and Yeats as the embodiment of his Western dream,

I couldn't help thinking that the West was mainly about nice cars and decent accommodation. Or so I told myself, gloomily, as I checked into a hotel later that night. Yu Wei had presented me with his furry winter hat and departed for Frankfurt, while Erhard had bought me a copy of The Times. 'A real piece of, ah,

grasping my hand like a spanner before marching away into the mist.

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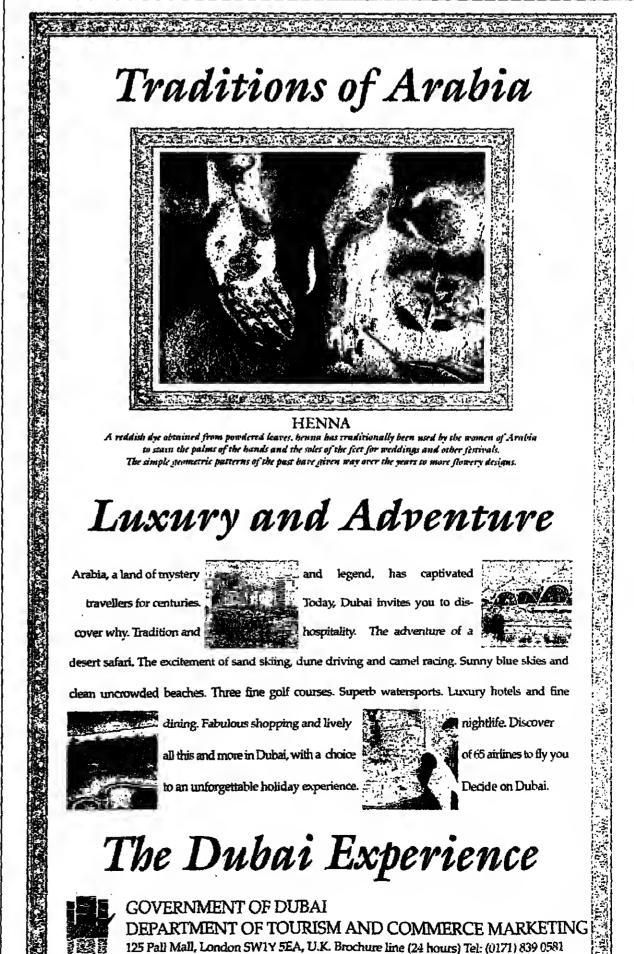
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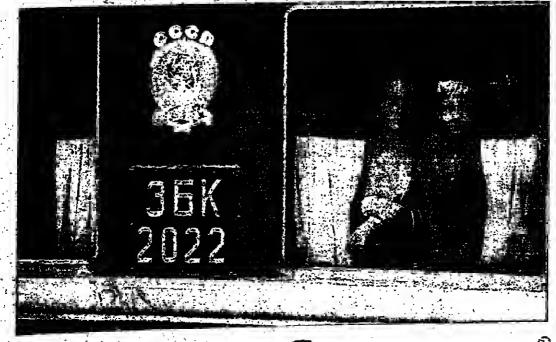
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In bed at last, I drifted into the dreams of West Berlin. Would the skateboarders around the Kaiser Wilhelm Church be feeling the cold tomorrow morning? Would I find the girl from Communist China? The tune of "Maybe in Winter" began playing in my mmd. One day, I dreamt, Xiaosong would tell me what its lyrics meaot.

'Charman' hospitality," he had said. Jeremy Athyah married Xiaosong in 1991





bust the train carried the hones of Chinese and East Europeans wno make

the break

Berlin or

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'The only thing that worked on air-conditioned stock was the supplement you paid for it'

A Rail service," says a new report from a thoroughly reliable source. "continues to slide into oblivion, as the newly privatised railways simply dispense with those few passenger trains they inherited.

You may be relieved to learn that the country thus described is not Britain, but Brazil. The source is the new Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable, published today at £8.40. Its stoic air of resignation about life for the train traveller in Latin America makes Britain's rail system seem

a picture of perfection. The last edition reported that, in Ecuador, "all ENFE railears have broken down and nothing is actually running at all." Evidence in the new timetable suggests this started a trend: "The organisation contracted to run passenger services on Bolivian Railways," reports the Editor, "has apparently ceased to operate any passenger trains."

Further north, "FNM in Mexico, in the throes of privatisation, still manages to provide some sort of service, although timekeeping is erratic. All diners are only in weekends, and they only in two trains. A recent then only on two trains... A recent traveller assured us that the only thing that worked on air-conditioned stock was the supplement you paid to travel in it."

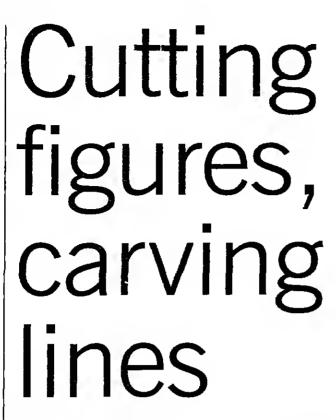
At least the compilers have help-ful contacts in Latin America, If this year should find you travelling to Lebanon, please spare a thought for the loneliness of the Thomas Cook team in Peterborough:

"Lehanon has been a difficult nut for us to crack for a long time now, as no-one there really wants to talk

"Please don't take all those silly Spanish coins home with you."

Airtours day trip to Seville made this announcement. I cynically suspected (a) Anglo-chauvinism, and/or (b) a ploy to boost the profits of Britain's second-largest tour operator. But the appeal for loose change was in fact intended to amplify the funds of the Variety Club of Great Britain, And if you need any more persuasion to give to a good cause, take note that the peseta in your pocket may be worthless.

The treasury in Madrid has announced that older designs of coins are no longer legal tender in Spain. Old versions of the one-. five- and 25-peseta coins will not be accepted by shopkeepers. So instead of saving your spare change for the next trip to Spain, you may as well give the money to Airtours - which has special arrangements for converting old pesetas into new pounds for the Variety Club.



Stephen Wood reveals next season's ski fashions



Snow + Rock's retro 'pilot' outfit

1997/8 winter season will not focus on the wild Seventies. 'modern style' or 'technical skiwear'." says a report from this month's Munich winter sports fashion show, "hut on the carving theme, Basically, carving lines [are] a mixture of casual snowboard fashion and technically sophisticated. sporty-looking skiwear."

That's the men sorted.

"Ladies ski fashion is quite different, almost unaffected by the carving style." the report continues. "It focuses on the retro themes [of] snug-fitting lines and almost severe contours ... waisted blousons with a hint of peplum and the occasional real or imitation fur collar." Although "the range of colours is enormous" - from coral. via heige to black - "white is an absolute must for ladies, combined for contrast or ural materials; their market is dominated on its own". And fahries? "The glitter of gold and silver, the sheen of satin on tonein-tone jacquards, layered micros, coarsestructured stretch, soft smocked inserts and shimmering shot fabrics are all back again."

My contribution to fashion has been limited: I bought this season's outfit from a rack at C&A in 1988. But I don't feel that anybody else has been trying recently, either. The last time I had a good laugh on the slopes was in 1990 when a friend of mine, normally to be seen wearing well cut double-breasted suits, turned up in a zehra-print one-piece. Sharon Campbell. fashion director for the Snow+Rock chain, agrees that recent skiwear has been "dead horing". And she has had great dif-ficulty selling fashion items in the Nineties: trips have been cut back so drastically, the ficulty selling fashion items in the Nineties: influence of young people has weakened: And the "retro" look for women? That's

'The snowboarder's late-grunge "street look" wouldn't bring a smile to anybody's face there are fewer skiers. "Those that are left are the same people are going skiing, and they're getting older". Second, snow-focus on the wild Seventies. British skiers are conservative, and will boarding hasn't taken off to the same always go for practical clothing made of extent in the UK as on the Continent, and always go for practical clothing made of

waterproof, 'hreathable' fahrics." As you will have noticed, other European skiers take their outfits more seriously. And for Martin Phillips, who buys women's skiwear for C&A throughout Europe from its Düsseldorf office, spotting variations in taste is important: he can identify a skier's nationality at 100 paces. C&A's curiously named skiwear label, Rodeo, which dominates the UK market, is also sold on the Continent, but the gar-

ments to which it is attached differ. The big difference is between the German and French markets, which have almost nothing in common. The French like very classical, simple clothing, and nathy 'technical' [sporting] skiwear. But the German market is much more fashionoriented: they favour snowboarding styles. and go for those prints that I find so distasteful. He agrees with Sharon Camphell that "the style in Britain is now dressing down rather than dressing up. You can relate it to the high street where there's more classic, Escada-type fashion around, less of a hip, fashionable look."

British skiers' conservatism is partly a result of general high street austerity, but Phillips (who talks nostalgically about the Eighties, when people were "spending money like water on skiwcar") adds two other causes. First, "because school skiing skiing fashion has recently looked to snowboarders for inspiration.

Austerity does tend to take the fun ont of fashion, and snowhoarders' styles haven't put it hack. Their late-grunge, 'street" look - haggy shapes in drah colours - wouldn't bring a smile to anybody's face, the only mild diversion being its reading material: the proudly displayed lahels (Billabong, Fishpaw, Fat Face) and hizarre slogans (one C&A teenager's parka carries the message "A special design for your great pleasure to wear", another the more enigmatic "MCP-9169"). Similarly, in this year's racks of technical skiwear uniforms, the decorative elements are largely textual, each one carrying a handful of swing tickets ("the Christmas tree effect", C&A's Martin Phillips calls it) proclaiming the virtues of its hi-tech fabric. Competition for expensive, "breathahle" Goretex is tough, since Tactel &, EcoTemp", Superskin®, Entrant GII", Kaporous® and Rhino Skin™ not only live and hreathe, but sing and dance, too.

But the dark days are now over. 1 expressed some cynicism about next season's trends to Snow+Rock's Sharon Campbell: the Munich declaration that menswear would somehow combine snowboarding styles and technical skiwear under a buzz-word taken from this season's fashionable "carving" skis suggested

already retro: this season, Snow+Rock has been offering a one-piece "pilot" suit that looks like one of Amelia Earhart's cast-offs (price £479).

PHOTOGRAPH: ALLSPORT

Campbell insists, however, that "next season the fashion element is coming back. Sales have been excellent at Snow+Rock this year, particularly of high-priced items: the demand for 'cheap-and-cheerful' out-fits is declining, and the Mr Mountain look [the rugged, recession-style clothing adopted from mountaineers] has had its day. The manufacturers have had a very good season, too," she adds, "so there's

good season, too, she adds, so there's more money – and confidence – going into their outfits for next year."

The "carving" look for men may be hard to define (the Swedish company, Mover, has embroidered a razor blade on one new jacket's lapel to establish its carving cre-dentials), hut Campbell identifies "a more streamlined shape, with a shorter jacket – half-way to a hlouson gathered slightly at the waist"; the bright new colours include apple green and yellow. Retro outfits for women are a certainty: "the waisted jacket, with stretch trousers, looks very good on them," she says. And she is still optimistic about the tight-fitting "pilot" suits – a retro look made possible by a new technology for thinner insulation materials.

There will also be a retro look for men. But I don't think my puffy blue jacket and haggy hlack salopettes. 1988-style, are quite old enough yet to qualify. Perhaps 1 should do my hit to brighten up the slopes by buying something streamlined next season, maybe with a hint of peplum and soft smocked inserts? Perhaps not.

Quietly sloping off with the family

Lucy Hodges spent half-term in the Italian Alps at the new resort of Montecampione

put you off skiing the Italian Alps. We have just had a pleasurably restful halfterm week at a small, purpose-huilt resort. Montecompione, perched above Lake Iseo, two-and-a-half hours north east of Milan. Yes, the crazy skiers and their snowhoarding pals were out in force at weekends, whooping and jumping their way down the slopes, but the weekdays were blissfully quiet - empty mountains, no lift queues, and gallant attendants who made a point of helping women skiers off the chairlifts. What more could you ask?

Montecampione is a new resort, built in the last five years and still undergoing construction. Straddling three mountains, it boasts two hotels, hundreds of apart-

important of all, it has an elahorate aniheial snow-making system.

We had brilliant weather all week: azure blue skies, dazzling sunshine, luminous sunsets, not a snowflake in sight. It has apparently been thus for a while. After heavy snow earlier on, it has been warm and sunny this month. And so the snowmaking machines have come into their own, pumping out the soft stuff to coat the ice with a layer of skiable powder. Those slopes that did not have machines were lethal - to be avoided at all costs.

about our level. There were black runs. notably Nero Canalone, a thin tube that descended at a right angle, and Rossa tupering off layer by layer to a distant hori-

talians ski as they drive: they're fast. ments, ice-skating, and 25km of slopes, as pushy and dangerous. But don't let that well as bars, restaurants and eateries. Most before the sun had transformed the layer glimpsed the dark water of the lake below.

of ice/snow into slush. This was not much of a place for the experts. Nor was it a paradise for moguljumpers. In fact, there was not a mogul held to he seen, just the occasional accidental hump where a snow machine had spewed out too much product. Those seeking thrills did have slalom racing, however. The two steep slalom runs were patronised almost continuously by speed freaks and given a wide berth by the rest of us.

But the scenery was still pretty awesome. Once you had ascended to a peak, We were lucky that Montecampione was the ski area opened up into a lunar landscape of wide runs and rolling bowls with

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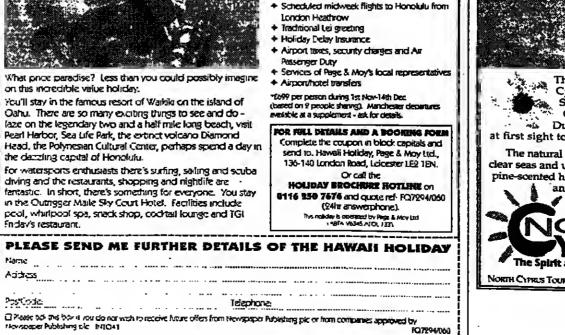
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Our week was transformed by Mimo, a ski instructor who spoke ski-lingo English. Like many skiers, we are stuck in an intermediate rut, able to parallel-ski down most slopes hut only in a hesitating and inelegant fashion. Mimo reminded us about raising and lowering our trunks and holding our arms out as if we were carrying a tea tray. In between lessons we worked at pretending to be waiters on skis.

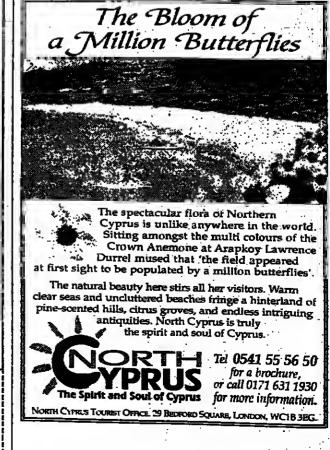
We travelled to Montecampione as independent skiers, swapping a twohedroom timeshare in Plymouth, New Hampshire, for a studio flat in our Italian development. It was the most convenient location of any ski resort we have stayed in, being situated just above a chairlift and the ski pass office. Another of its great advantages, for someone who suffers from altitude sickness and has spent many unhappy hours feeling ill in Colorado, was that it was low, 1,827 metres, prohably another reason for the dearth of snow.

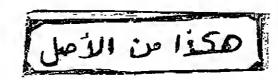
The main drawback was a lack of eating places. Food figures large on any skiing agenda. Our bit of the resort contained a pizzeria where we ate three times and a trattoria where we ate once. Full stop. Otherwise you had to venture down the treacherous 11km of hairpin bends to Lovere, where there was more choice. We did find one family-run establishment locally, the Legazzuolo, which provided hearty home-made stuffed pastas and rich stews, and good red vino da tavola. 1t was a great antidote to the pizzeria.





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pickpocketing in urban

market. Do not carry

wristwatches, etc. It is

advisable to carry a

or wear iewellery,

excessive amounts of money

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incidents of armed robbery

in the past six months.

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targeted. Several vehicles

It is inadvisable to pick up

Tanzania: Incidents of

beaches. Food should not be

accepted from strangers as it

may be drugged. Armed car

thefts, particularly of four-

wheel-drive vehicles, occur

accompanied by personal

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was wen easily by All-

fairly frequently, and may be

mugging and theft are common, especially on

public transport and

growing number of

hitchhikers.

Sierra Leone: There has

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND . SATURDAY 1 MARCH 1997

World guide to where to be mugged

heft threats around the danger of imigging and world, according to the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit (0171-238 4503) Indonesia: Be alert. There has been an increase in petty crime against foreigners, including several incidents of knife attacks in the town of Brastagi in Sumatra and while climbing Mount Sibayak nearby. (The Independent comments that

one of our correspondents fairly recently spent four peaceful days in Brastagi, "a friendly, quiet little town. The place where you really need to watch out for yourself is Medan, an hour's bus ride away. People in Brastagi will warn you that foreigners in this big city are invariably hassled, pickpocketing is rife

and mugging common.")
iran: There has recently been a number of cases of tourists being asked for identification by bogus policemen, who have then made off with the visitors' wallets and currency. Keep passports separate from other valuables.

Madagascar: There is a

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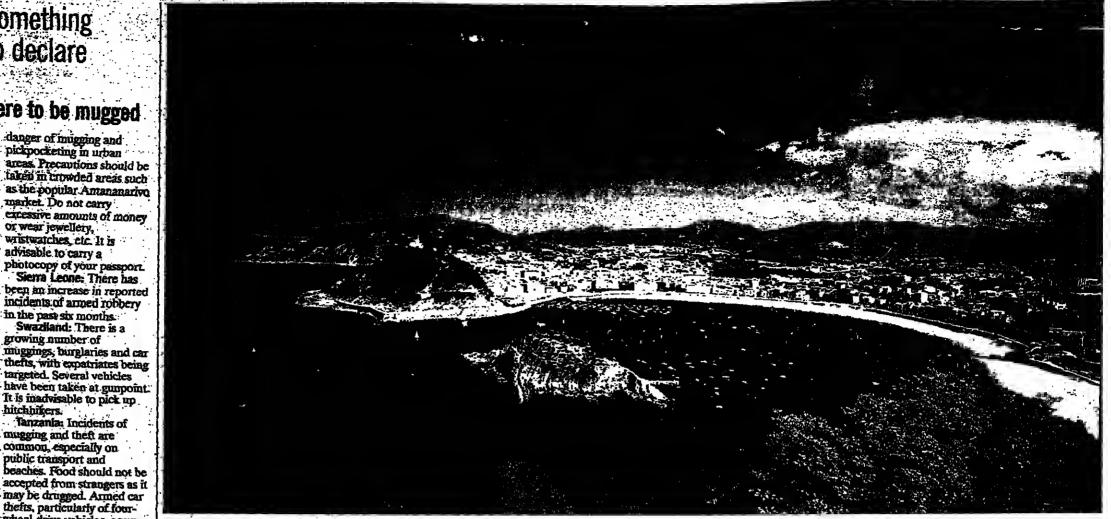
"probably the best lager in the world" - BA's assertion is an easy one to make: there is no scientific standard for judging mass-produced lager or air travel. But for British long-haul leisure travellers surveyed by Austravel, "theworld's favourite" barely rates a mention.

. The questionnaire. completed by 15,000 flyers, 1. money. The last category covered five categories onmore than 20 airlines. For politeness. Austravel has adopt the slogar. We'll take published only the top 10 in more care of you."

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he freedom of Newcastle-upon-Tyne: fly to the city with Gill Airways (0191-214 6666) for example from Aberdeen; Belfast or Düsseldorf - keep hold of your boarding pass.

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San Sebastián - a sensual surfeit of sights, sounds and tastes

Basque out of the shade

budget. The ensuing holiday his is, and yet isn't, Spain. The will be captured on camera, crowds of people taking an evening stroll through the old If this appeals, call Ginny on 0161-244 3649. town, stopping off for a glass of wine, some tapas and a chat are doing what Spaniards do, but they're doing it more quietly, less demonstratively. and they're wearing overcodts and car-

rying umbrellas. Contrary to the popular saying, the rain in Spain falls mainly here, on the porthern coast, which is why tourist - Airways scrapes in at number 10 for "helpfulness" brochures describe the local weather cuphemistically as "mild and pleasand manner of cabin crew" ant". Surprisingly, it was the climate that first marked San Sebastian out to BA's chagrin, its charter. rival Britannia is third. behind Singapore Airlines as a tourist resort in the mid-19th and All Nippon Airlines of Japan. These also rate highly in the categories where BA century, attracting Queen Isabella II and her court away from the summer heat of Madrid to this elegant town, recently rebuilt after a disastrous fire is absent catering, comfort, and blessed with a beautiful beach. contranoment and value for It's appropriately named la concha (the shell), and it forms a perfect, semicircular bay, whose entrance is Nippon, which may want to: totected from the worst exc the Atlantic by a tiny island.

. I've got a soft spot for la concha. Twenty odd years ago, I spent my first-ever night in Spain sleeping on it, lulled to sleep by the sound of the waves and the effects of a bottle of wine that I vaguely remember costing 10 pesetas. That was in August, mind you. This time (in winter), I'm only too bappy to find a comfortable bed in a hotel and stroll down to the beach after breakfast.

San Sebastián is the capital of a culture that has finally stamped its name back on the map ... as well as the gastronomic dictionary, writes Mick Webb

It's on a Saturday morning like this, watched with mild but respectful out of season, that you realise how a beach in summer can be a mass human barbecue. But today it's a park where people are walking their dogs, jogging, reading the paper, while from this esplanade a less active contingent of us are happy to lean on the railings and simply watch.

Basque culture has reasserted itself. and the language banned for 40 years by Franco is now flourishing. The city has acquired a new name. Donostia; the names above the shops and bars are full of tongue-twisting clusters of consonants - Zumacalárriqui, Goikotxea; and the street signs are in Spanish state and, on a damp Friday evening, the rush-hour traffic was slowed more than usual by a demonstration of 100 or so people moving silently and purposefully through the city centre. They were holding up placards with photos of their loved ones, ETA activists, who have been incarcerated in far-off Ceuta and

interest by shoppers and drinkers, and it reveals the other side of a city that's best known for a host of international music and film festivals, and as a rather upmarket seaside resort.

The city has its fair share of interesting museums, and churches, as well as some excellent walks, and I'd thoroughly recommend a couple of hours spent watching the game of pelota. It's fast, furious and fun, particularly the variety called remonte, which involves a wicker basket attached to the players' wrists, from which a ball is propelled against a wall at phenomenal speed. And if you its part in ETA's long and violent cam- larity is matched by the betting - old paign for independence from the tennis balls stuffed with peseta notes are thrown between spectators and bookmakers through the ever-thickening eigarette smoke.

The Basques are the great chefs of Spain, and here on their home turf their art flourishes. There are 11 Michelin stars scattered around the city's many restaurants, and the two best-known practitioners, Juan Mari Melilla. It's a regular Friday event, Arzak and Pedro Subijana, convert economic development, the relatively

traditional recipes into the most claborate modern dishes. Just a glance at the menu of El Akelarre, Sr Subijana's restaurant, sends our taste buds into an uncontrollable spin: fricassée of lambs' sweethreads with vegetables and sautéed squids: hake fillets with clams in green sauce: citrus fruits in puff pastry with

caramel: fresh cheese ice-cream, At the other end of the price range, in the bars of the old town, you can eat well from the varied and colourful pintos, us tapas are called here, though it is a good idea to like fish particularly cod and hake, which reappear in 100 different guises and

The Donostiarras are extraordinary consumers of fresh fish - they consume seven or eight times as much us most other Europeans. The fish market is one of the shrines of the city. This originated by necessity. Historically, the poverty of this part of the Basque region meant that the only readily available source of food was fish, and the only major source of work was fishing. Now, by an irony of

well-off residents of San Sebastián can afford to huy fish, and to use it as the basis of the new Basque cuisine. But there is another reason why the

gastronomic arts have taken root here, hidden behind heavy doors. San Sebastián is full of gastronomic clubs, whose members gather together to talk and drink, but mainly to cook, rivalling each other in the preparation of delicious meals. San Sebastián is very much the

pretty face of the Basque country. If you go inland, the hills that provide such a scenic backdrop to the city conceal the valleys that themselves hide the rather ugly and forbidding villages cranimed into them. I remembered from my first visit that what was odd about the interior of the Basque country was the way that traditional farming and quite large industrial plants and factories existed side by side. In these post-industrial days it looks even weirder. I drove up out of gan gebastan into a taint coating m snow along mountain roads, passing ahandoned paper mills, gaunt iron skeletons that might have been created by the great Basque sculptor. Txillida. I had a very clear recollection from my earlier visit of the lurid yellow and green rivers created by industrial effluent from the mills - and the hideous smell that arose from them. Not now, though: they are clean enough and fresh enough to star in any advert or grace any tourist brochure.

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A pilgrim's slow progress

Rob Gaisford seeks salvation in a Spanish stroll

for the other to make the first move. The bull's horns. gleamed, burnished bronze under the declining Spanish sun. The only cape I had was made of waterproof. plastic, folded in my rucksack. I was the route. Her name was Margarita. an unwilling, unprepared ioreador against one of nature's finest beasts.

The same scene must have been de Compostela. Santiago, or St The same scene must have been enacted thousands of times over the centuries in this hot, unyielding converting Spain, but the discovery land. The outcome could have been of his body, several hundred years too horrible to contemplate had not after his death, caused Santiago de too horrible to contemplate had not a six-year-old boy appeared at that Compostela to become an impor-

way along the Camino de Santiago.

After 30 kilometres, Thad reached Hospital de Orbigo, where I found this test of my manhood blocking

James, was not a great success at moment and ordered the animal tant centre of pilgrinage from all

e stood still, eyeing one into a nearby bart for milking, over Europe. Mine was intended to another warily and I had come by sea from Ply be a short walking holiday, not a pilintensely, each waiting mouth to Santander and thence by grimage, but I found myself drawn train to León to walk for some of the increasingly to the notion of reaching Santiago, and burried calcula-tions established that I could just do it if I walked 30km a day. Pilgrims have a certain status in that part of Spain - passing motorists beep horns in recognition and small children shout "Olé, peregrino!" My original, hedonistic motivation became a more ascetic determmation to complete the journey.

I awoke early the next morning in my simple inn at Hospital de Orbigo, dislodged a dozy insect from my eye socket and let myself out. I made my way over the longest pilgrim bridge on the route. The sun was just rising behind me, lighting up the distant, misty hills and getting a welcome from crowing cocks and bowling dogs. A church clock

struck eight, twice.

A Spaniard, José, then a Frenchman, Jean-Louis, overtook me, walking briskly in contrast to my uneasy progress - the result of the previous day's exertions. Thirty kilometres on the first day is too much," observed the latter.

At Astorga, I bought a doublelength walking-stick adorned with Maragateria gives way to hillier for replacing a dislodged rock. country. There are long distances

hetween villages. Camino, where I was given a solic- unmhabited save for Tomas, who. itous welcome at a hostel, and with his wife, runs a small refuge for greeted with astonishment by José pilgrims. He had seen me approachand Jean-Louis, who had overtaken ing and, as I turned off the road, he me so long ago. There is a rigid grading system in Spanish hotels. The tery old bell, shouting "Bienvenido, best are probably the comfortable, peregrino!" with such enthusiasm state-rum paradors; the humblest



set off again, leaving me to inspect

some of the religious artefacts that

the walls. I went on my way and

decorated, and probably insulated.

are the simple fondas. A hostel is slightly more expensive and better furnished than a fonda. In this one, my room included half a bath. By walking up the wall above the taps. I could get most of my torso sub-

merged Bliss. I took my stiff and painful leave just before dawn to start the ascent into the mountains to the west. Some 350 metres higher and 6km further on, my bruised and swollen feet led me past the deserted village of Foncebadan. I remembered that there was said to be an iron cross near here. Traditionally, pilgrims add a stone to the pile at its foot. Dutifully, I tossed a peoble on to what seemed a modest mound and passed on. A little further on, I was confronted by a giant pyramid of the inevitable cockleshell and a stones, spilling out on to the road. large, hollow representation of a I hunted for another pebble, but earmedieval water-bottle. After lier travellers had entirely denuded Astorga, the flat plain known as La the ground of loose stones. I settled

The wind was howling over these hills and rain threatened as I After 30km, I reached Rabanal de reached the village of Marjarin. It is appeared at his door and rang a clatthat further introductions were

unnecessary. I accepted a coffee, which was a lukewarm liquid in a chipped tin mug. It was disgusting. Jean-Louis and José had already been there an hour and decided to

easily. After 20 minutes, I passed the others, explaining that I dared not stop and asking what they thought Tomas put in his coffee.

This burst of energy lasted several hours and saw me down the road that runs through the village of El Acebo to within sight of Molinaseca. where I found a room at Hostal Et found, to my astonishment that I Palacio, beside the Romanesque

BRIAN HARRIS An early night, and then off again at eight the next morning, this time at a snail's pace as I tried to force my unhappy feet into service. After a couple of hours, their objections lessened and I picked up speed. I

stopped only for coffee in Ponfer-

Cross purposes: a pilgrim reaches the end of her journey to Santiago de Compostela PHOTOGRAPH:

rada and then hastened on again. Flatter now, the road took me to the ancient village of Locabelos, I paused for a beer in an indifferent bar, where ciderly men were playing a noisy game of cards, and then anacked the last section of the day's march, to Villafranca. By the time I got there, my blistered feet had all hut beaten my pilgrim will. Then I rounded a corner and stopped in my tracks. The declining sun reflected from a gleaming tiled roof. On one side of the road stood a welcoming, only partly occupied parador: on the other, one of nature's weariest beasts. I gave in immediately.



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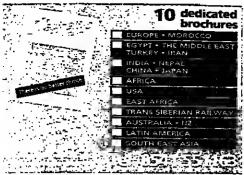
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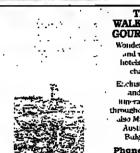
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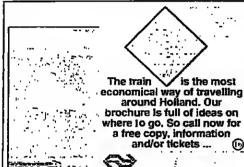


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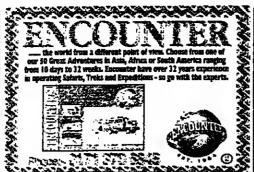
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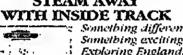
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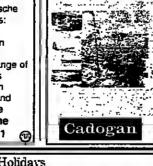


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Are we nearly there?

Prison museums for children: jails they won't want to escape from

Clink Prison Museum, 1 Clink Street; ** ** Bankside, London SE1 (0171-403.6515) The grim history of the original Clink Prison and the Bankside brothels is suitably moody entertainment for a rainy afternoon. See scenes: of immates catching rats and manacled prisoners begging for food, each with a ball and chain trailing behind them. Exhibits include old torture chairs and thumbscrews. Open seven days a week. 10am-6pm. Prices: adults £3.50, concessions and children £2.50, family £8.

The Galleries of Justice, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Lace Market, Nottingham (01.15) 952 0555) Prison wardens and court ushers played by costumed interpreters guide visitors around the exhibition. Includes a reconstruction of the trial of George Bedic who in 1832 was accused of burning down a local salt mill during the Reform Act riots. Open Tues-Sun, 10am-5.30pm (last admission, 4pm). Prices: adults £4.25, conce and children £2.95, family ticket £11.95, children under five, free.

Dover Old Town Gaol, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent (01304 242766) Dover's fully restored prison houses a suitably grim collection of inmates whose crimes include smuggling murder and, in the case of several small boys, rabbit theft. The "horror and the tragedy" the museum promises come via hi-tech talking beads and animation. Visitors can also witness a trial in the imposing Victorian courtroom, wander through the exercise yard and squeeze into a cell. Guided tours run hourly throughout the day. Open Wed-Sat, 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-4.30pm. Prices: adults £3.20, cones and children £1.90, children under five, free.

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William .

Micklegate Bar Museum, Micklegate, York (01904 634436) Royal visitors to York traditionally arrived via Micklegate Bar, and it was customary to decorate its entrance with the heads of recently hanged traitors. The gatehouse is now home to an exhibition charting 800 years of York's history; displays include about 40 heads in various states of decay, Open Sat-Sun, 9am-6pm; from Easter until the end of October it will be open seven days a week 9am-6pm, Prices: adults £1.50, students and OAPs £1, under-16s accompanied by an adult 50p.

Cirencester Lock-up, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Key from the Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester (01285 655611). Known locally as "the dumpling house" because of its domed roof, the Lock-up is a tiny prison with two cells and only one window grille. It remains closed for much of the year: most visitors choose to. peer in through the bars. Open by arrangement with the Corinium Museum (opens at the end of March - call first); November-March, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm; April-October, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm; Prices adults £1.60, cones £1.40, students £1, children. 80p, family ticket £4.

Porridge mixed with politics

The Kilmainham Jail in Dublin sheds light on a dark age. By Alan Murdoch



Charlotte Packer Block booking: the Kilmainham Jail Museum

Jail Museum brings a searing reality to the lives of its sometimes after all, the place where a Who's Who of Irish nationalist leaders. from Robert Emmet to Parnell to de Valera, heard the thud of metal doors clanging hehind

In the past year, the once gloomy prison museum's permanem exhibition has been brought to life with theatrical flair and £1m of public funds to explain how famine, civil disorder and war came to land so many inside. Its balance of dignified treatment of the tragedy of Irish leaders' executions here and the opportunities to engage younger visitors through video-age techniques has recently been recognised with a Large Museum of the Year award from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Kilmainham was the world's first jail used exclusively for political prisoners, yet its grey stone passages also provide the ideal cautionary trip back into stern Victorian times for harassed parents of adolescents.

The early prison "reformers" Jeremy Bentham and John Howard, zealots for extracting repentance and for the "febrication of virtue", saw their vision given full rein here. They favoured harsh. hygienic and "fair" punishment as an alternative to the squalor of 18th-century prisons, in which more prisoners were killed by disease than by the ever-husy gallows.

In the new display, "humane" refinements of hanging - largely through the longer-drop, quickerfarewell technique developed by Professor Samuel Haughion of Trinity College, Dublin - are explained in neck-tingling detail. Young people are encouraged

to take part in the age-old debate about hanging by easting a vote in a computer poll; they can then see. in graphic form on screen, the latest balance of visitors' opinions for and against, presented by age group in graphic form on screen. In 1796 Kilmainham was rearranged on the principles of one prisoner, one cell - and soon

ublin's Kilmainham numbers sourced during the famine in its own terms and allow people in the late 1840s when the starying were imprisoned in their thousands for possession of stolen bread-and-butter, and theft of times famous inmates. It was, apples or even turnips. The prison's grim regime is clearly illustrated by the authorities' attitude towards rations. On discovering that prisoners got four ounces of bread more than workhouse inmates, an enraged inspector. Phillip Priestly, demanded: This alarming gap must be

closed". Even the mildest Victorian punishment aimed to exert maximum control over the inmate - and to ensure that the prisoner knew it. One exhibit is a cell-door eye-slot. revealing a miniature video of a confined woman's unnerved reaction to the warder's watching eye. And in an adjacent closed-circuit television room, visitors become warder-monitors of the jail and, eerily, of themselves.

As for political prisoners, after 798. French-influenced United Irishmen were held here, as was Robert Emmet before his 1803 public execution; in 1848 Young Ireland rebels followed: then, in 1867, Fenians were incarcerated, betrayed by informers. After this, criminals were moved out, turning Kilmainham into a jail exclusively for political detainees.

In 1881, these included the nationalist leader Charles Stewart Parnell and his Land Leaguers. who defended Irish tenant farmers from evictions and rejected Westminster's Land Acts.

His release followed the 1882 Kilmainham Treaty, securing Parnell's co-operation with the British Prime Minister William Gladstone's Liberal government.

Kilmainham's climactic moment came in the 20th century, when 14 Easier Rising leaders were shot here between 3 and 12 May, 1916. In a darkened passageway their family photographs, letters, pens and spectacles are laid out in individual spotlit alcoves, like shrines to the executed.

While the curator, Pat Cooke, acknowledges the value of a recent reassessment of 1916 by Irish historians, the museum avoids a didactie narrative. "We present the nationalist 'physical force' tradition from city centre.

to react in their own way," he says. This means admitting to the complex, mixed backgrounds of the 1916 leaders. Some even had

English parentage, a fact that contradicts the nationalist stereotype. Paradoxes continued when the jail changed hands. British withdrawal left the prison controlled by pro-Treaty forces under Michael Collins, who appointed an 1RA friend as governor over former comrades dur-

By November 1922, after Collins's death. Free State (pro-Treaty) forces were holding their own executions here. Between April and September 1923, 300 anti-Treaty hardliners of the 1RA women's division were imprisoned in Kilmainham and

ing the bloody 1927-1924 civil war.

nearby Grangegorman (the main setting for Neil Jordan's film Michael Collins). In time-honoured tradition, the women hegan tunnelling their way

out, using metal spoons, but had got only a few feet before heing discovered. After the women's release, Eamon de Valera, Sinn Fein leader land opponent of Michael Collins during the civil war), later Taoiseach and President, hecame Kilmainham's final prisoner. He lived to see the building renovated by admiring volunteers in the Sixties. Today its dramane associations continue. Key scenes from in the Name of the Father, featuring Daniel Day-Lewis as Gerry Conlon of the Guildford Four, were filmed here

The Kilmainham Jail Museum. Dublin (003531 4535984), is at the junction of Inchicore Road and the South Circular Road, Dublin 8 (opposite the Irish Museum of Modern Art at Royal Hospital, Kilmainham).

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9.30am-5pm (last tour 75 minutes before closing.) Guided tours only. Saturdays: closed in winter. Open Saturdays from 3 May: Sundays 10am-6pm (last tour 4.45pm.) Admission: adults £2: senior cit-

izen £1.50; children or suidents £1: family £5. Bus routes: Nos 51, 51B, 78A, 79

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vessels, the majority apparently looking much the same on the surface. There are of course differences. Some are only subtle and some more noticeable and all mostly due to the on board management.

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DAY4 Kizhi Today we sali across Lake Onega. naking a stop at the beautiful island of Kizhl. Visit file imposing 22 domed Church of the Karsfiguration, a marvel of 18th century Russian Wooden architecture.

DAY 5 arma. Here in the heart of the Russian compliazing hor mill pe aprie to exbeueuce the special transmitty which has inspired writers and artists over the centuries. There. will be an opportunity to welk in the woods, see the day village of irms and weather permitting, enjoy a barbecus picnic.

DAY 6 Yarostavi Vic have the day to explore Yaroslavi, the oldest city on the Volga with its lovely rivertroat and fine collection of lovely rivertront and time consection of merchant churches. See the Churches of Elijah 12.22* kine:3,13*24.kiy; 3,*14,24* August: the Propriet and the Transfiguration Cathedral

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cities of the Golden Ring. The city retains its classical 18-19th century layout with wide streets and boulevards, familing out like the spokes of a wheel from a central square. Visit the lostyevsky Monastery (now a mus which was founded in the 14th century by tery (now a museum)

the Zernov family, the forbears of the Godunovs. Of special interest will be our visit to the outdoor museum village of Berengevica. DAY 8 Uglich This historic Golden Ring city on the Volga has some fascinating sites within its knemin. See the cathedral, the Church of St Omitry on the Blood and the Palace

DRY 9 Moscow Sail along the Moscow Canal arriving in Moscow at funch time. Afternoon city three including Red Square and the Byzantine splendour of St Basil's multi-coloured onlondomed cathedral.

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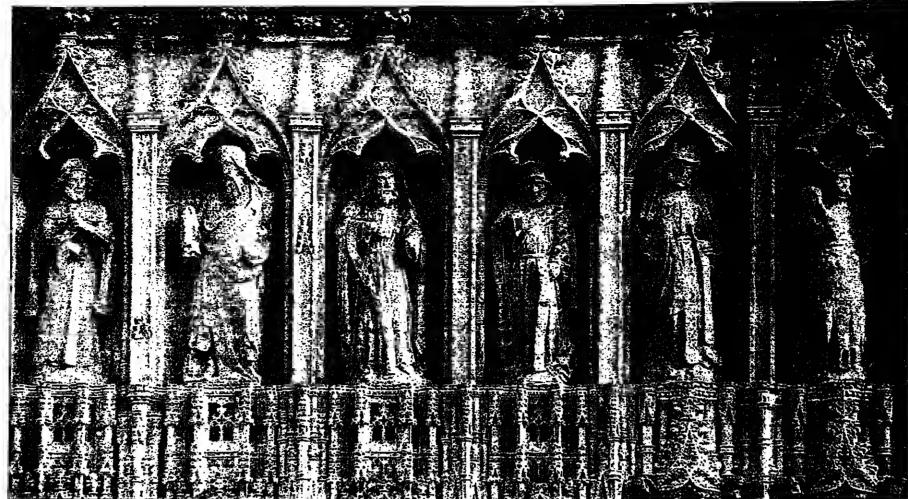
Simon Calder tracks down miracles of masonry and cake-making

oreign aggressors. Fiftics planners and municipal modesty - all conspire to conceal the reality that Exeter is a fine, walled city. Worse still, the dark forces of Railtrack and South West Trains have this week been deflecting all but the most determined visitor from travelling to the South-west's largest city. My plan was to catch the dawn train from Waterloo on Saturday. But figuratively scaling the twin barricades of overrunning engineering works and staff shortages took until Tuesday lunchtime.

William Lendured an even more troublesome arrival in 1068, when for 18 days. Exeter's defenders stubbornly refused to accept that the Norman was a Conqueror. From his encampment beside the ford on the road from London he had plenty of time to survey the forrifications before he waded across the "Long Brooke". Today, wading is optional. But you should certainly circumnavigate the ancient boundary before venturing into the city, The miraculous masonry dives towards the River Exe, then soars to the cap of an ancient volcano.

Yet you could easily remain unaware of the ring of history that resonates around Exeter. Unlike York, the wall here melts surreptitiously into the fabric of the place called Isca Dumnoniorum by its first residents. The Roman wall is disguised variously as a foundation for a pedestrian walkway and a supporting superstructure for sundry council car parks, the modern equivalent of the hushel under which Exeter's light is hidden.

Arrive by that clusive train to Exeter Central, though, and finding the wall is easy. Two minutes from the definitely dull station, and apparently average Queen Street, mark on the space - notably the



Exeter marks the spot

you ascend to Northernhay - and more than a millennium of history.

The "hay" component of the name is a Saxon term for an enclosure of greenery. Exeter has a handsome handful of these. Even in the dying days of February, each is flickering into life as the first

spring flowers meckly emerge. Northernhay is claimed to be the first public park in Britain, dedi-cated in 1612. But the term "park" does scant justice to the curvaceous, herhaceous expanse sculpted by Remans, Saxons and Normans,

Each wave of visitors has left its

the wooden stockade that first protected Exeter with a formidable wall 30ft high and 10ft thick, They conjured the fortification from frozen lava lying virtually beneath their feet, where millions of years ago the gentle terrain was shattered by a mild (this is Devon, after all) eruption. Now it runs like an errant contour through Northern-

You see plenty of evidence of the grey, volcanic rock as you climb towards Athelstan's Tower. This turret was actually built by the Normans rather than the Saxon

Romans, who in AD200 beefed up monarch; they generously named it for the king who had reinforced the stone curtain after the Danes hreached it around the end of the first millennium. Nowadays, the main purpose of the rough red sandstone tower is to draw the visitor to one of the highest points in the city, from where the sheer good fortune of Exeter becomes clear. In every direction, hand-somely graded hills rise from the

winter haze. The Crown Court now occupies the castle grounds, rendering the enclosure out-of-bounds to lawabiding visitors. But the original

Norman gate is still in the public domain, and slams its way on to the skyline. The Norman are above the entrance is topped by two triangletipped Saxon windows. Surely some structural mistake, since the Normans succeeded the Saxons? The answer seems to be that this was an

early example of cowboy huilding.
"The Normans employed Saxon workmen to do the work," says Sara, one of the volunteer guides who usher visitors around Exeter in all weathers. "They probably finished it off in the style they were good at, while the Normans weren't

On the scale of outrages perpetrated against Exeter, dodgy Saxon handiwork hardly registers. The main offender was the Luftwaffe, which visited gratuitous horror on the city as part of the so-called Baedeker raids in 1942. Having failed to wipe out military targets in Britain, the German bombers turned their sights on the country's heritage. Exeter was the softest of

targets in the (guide) book. The Fifties followed the Nazis with a salvo of demolition, as you discover when you try to follow the gentle cuive of the wall. Parts survived the figurative Nazi jackboot,

PHOTOGRAPH MARC HILLAPEX

only to be deemed to be blocking the path of progress and buried unceremoniously beneath Boots the Chemist. All that remains of the wall is a crazed piece of paving on Princesshay. This "hay" is devoid of green. The said princess was Eliz-abeth, our present Queen, who laid the foundation for Britain's first shopping precinct in 1949. What distinguishes it from retail outrages perpetrated since then is that Princesshay at least tugs its pedestrian forelock in awe at the majesty of Exeter's cathedral.

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St Peter's constitutes an exercise in extravagant embellishment. A pair of vast, square Norman towers support a Gothic nave that stretches half-way to Cornwall. Exeter's cathedral enjoyed the same ecclesiastical immunity as St Paul's in London and suffered only superficial damage in the Nazi bombing raids.

Other buildings cower in the face of unreconstructed splendour, crowding into the High Street behind the Cathedral Close. Here, jostling with shoe shops and building societies, you find the Guildhall – pickled wonderfully by centuries of civic worthiness, its time-stained timbers still the venue for city council. Better yet, give Queen Street a second chance. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum is the best sort of municipal folly, built with exotic stone such as Aberdeen granite, imported by the Victorians cour-

tesy of the splendid new railway.

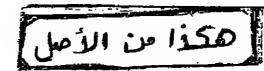
Before heading back to the uncertainties of the present railway age, hunt through the twirling columns of the museum for Consort's Café - and a life-sustaining piece of sticky sponge as thick as a Roman wall. Unlike finding a train home, this is truly a piece of cake.

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Cornish cream

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND . SATURDAY I MARCH 1997

Candida Lloyd watches the world go by in Polruan - where cuteness comes with character

his serjeantat-arms to enforce the law among wilful members of the community at Fowey estuary in south-east Cornwall, the man was dispatched back to Loodoo minus his ears. Today still operates in the harbour, you can expect a friendlier welcome, particularly at the fishermen in Polruan's heyday charming village of Polruan that huddles on one side of the were brought in to be salted mouth of the Fowey estuary.

The heart of the village is made up of a mass of stone cottages divided by a network

of narrow streets. Yet despite the cute looks and the, consequent sum-The place mer hordes of visitors, this is still seems like very much a place with its own charan updated acter. You see it at . its empty best at version of

this time of year. An attractive harbour overlooks the estuary where a flotilla of boats is crisscrossed by convessels

laden with china clay. Oppo- thing about Polruan is the site the village is the pretty water life. You can spend town of Fowey, accessible by a 50p passeoger ferry.

Wood 7

Reaching Polruan by car is not easy. A tiny vehicle ferry operates from further up the estuary, otherwise you have to take part in a 40-minute crosscountry rally through the oar-row back lanes. But ooce you finest chiffpaths: Phinging into fight your way through, the deep valleys or up into rocky stresses of working life evapoutions, the walking can be and a big jumper, and flop.

The two pubs in the village vou can pu

are subtly demarcated: ooe

has a wide range of food; the other a wide range of local characters. There are also a couple of general stores, tea shoos, and a bakery offering pasties for 60p. The place seems like an updated Cornish version of Under Milk Wood.

A boat-building business along with a scattering of vast quantities of pilchards and pressed in stacks up to 6ft high. The yards, known as "pilchard palaces", where the stacking took place can still be

seen attached to houses along the waterfront Another feature of the village is a 14th-century stone blockhouse, which was linked to a similar fort on the opposite side of the estnary by a heavy chain. To prevent pirates Under Milk port the chain was

> hours just looking out on the estua, watching the river trade.

Apart from gawping, walk-ing is the other reason for visiting Polition, Follow the coast east and you immediately step tough going, but the views are

always glorious.
Inland, several beautiful paths trace the side of the est-



uary. The best known is the four-mile circular Hall Walk created by the Mohun family of Hall, who were the local bigwigs in 1585. The path was a kind of 16th-century Disneyland. Local serfs cut out the walkway, which zigzags down

the steep hillside to the river, and planted vast numbers of trees and shrubs for the benefit of promenading ladies and

The walk takes you through the centre of Fowey, which manages to keep the

ing shoes and pasties down to a bearable level, and past the home of Daphne du Maurier. many of whose oovels, including Rebecca, were inspired by

the area. But the most sensational

bridge at the hamlet of Lerryn. several miles out of Polruan. A riverside track goes down to the ancient Ethy Quay, where sail barges used to bring their wares. The tide laps into Lerryn Creek twice a day, bring-

OUR

FRANCE



Bay watch: from Polruan, left,

ing with it the scent of the sea. The five-mile circular walk twists and turns alongside the creek and through some woodland which was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. The path eventually turns inland at the old river quay at St Winnow.

At the hamlet is a church which contains a shrine to two men from St Winnow. From what must have been a simple rural lifestyle, the two local boys grew up to become Army officers and ended up fighting thousands of Zulu warriors in the battle of Rorke's Drift. After the church the track goes past a ruined mill and

ends up at an 18th-century manor house. Hikers should ensure that their return to Lerryn, across a set of stepping stones, coincides with the licensing hours. At the local pub you can enjoy a pint of good Cornish ale. Alternatively, you can buy mugs of tea and coffee from the village shop, and if it's warm enough. sit on the nearby green, and watch the birds.

Walks in the area: National Trust bookles. Coast of Cornwall series No 21, Fowey, Tourist office: The Ticket Shop (in the Post Office), 4 Custom House Hill, Fowey (01726 833616).

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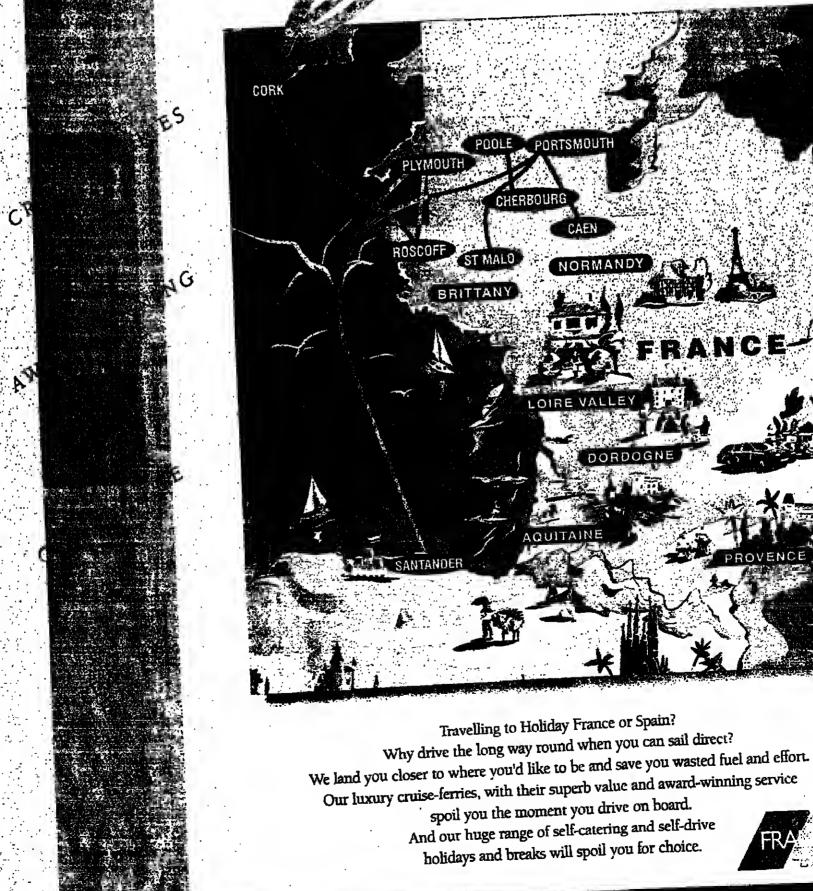
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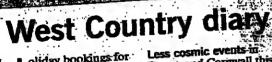


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oliday bookings for Cornwall in 1999 will be directly influenced by an astronomical event in Asia later this month. The total solar eclipse over Mongolia on 10 March is bound to fuel interest in the next-but-one total eclipse of the sun, visible over west Cornwall at 11.11am oo 11 August, 1999. The central line of totality passes just north of Penzance and south of Falmouth (see map, above). For an excellent guide to the eclipse, complete with a viewer. send a cheque for £5.95, payable to the Royal Greenwich Observatory, to The Observatory Madingley Road. Cambridge CB3 OEZ. Accommodation is likely to be scarce. For lists of properties, call the tourist information centres in Penzance (01736 62207, also covering St Ives), Helston (01326 565431) and Falmouth (01326 312300). If you cannot make it to Cornwall, then you will still get a good view of a partial

eclipse from elsewhere in

the UK. Even in Britain's northermnost town, Lerwick

in Shetland, there will be a

partial eclipse covering 65 percent of the sun.

Devon and Cornwall this year include the following (contact numbers for further details shown in

brackets): 1 May: Padstow 'Obby 'Oss celebrations – May Day custom marking the coming of spring (01841 533449). 8 May: Helston Flora Day the spring celebration moves west for the sequence of Furry Dances (01326 572082). 15-17 May: Devoo County Show, Westpoint Showground, oear Exeter (01392 444777). 23 May-7 June: English Riviera Dance Festival, Victoria Hotel Ballroom and other venues in Torquay (01895 632143). 6-22 June: Golowan Festival, Penzance (01736 3-20 July: Exeter Festival (01392 265200). 25 August: Newlyn Fish Festival (01736 62207). 22-25 August: Wadebridge Folk Festival, re-named this summer after 24 years as the Cornwall Folk Festival (01208 831123). 8-20 September: St Ives September Festival (01736 795003 or 01736 66077).

8 October: Tavistock Goose Fair (01822 613529)

6 November: Bridgwater

Guy Fawkes Carnival

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Crying wolf in Scotland

Should we be reintroducing native species to Britain? Daniel Butler considers schemes with teeth - and tusks

opular opposition was an insuperable problem for Dr Roger Panaman's plans to open a wolf centre at Aviemore. He had planned eventually to release the animals into the wild. After a long-running hattle with locals, on 10 February he reluciantly conceded defeat. "I still helieve it is perfectly possihle to reintroduce wolves any-where in the Highlands," he protests. There is no habital problem, it is just a political one - no one is prepared to stand up

to the landowners and farmers. Enthusiasm for bringing back animals exterminated by our ancestors is increasing. Wild boar, beavers and wolves are prime candidates, and research has been taking place in Scotland. Boar and beaver were once heavily hunted for sport, food and fur, and had probably died out by Shakespeare's day, But. although the last English wolves disappeared around the same time, a handful survived for another two centuries in Scotland and Ireland. The theory is that wolves would keep nature in balance by culling the overexpanded Scottish deer herds, hoar would help forestry by controlling undergrowth, and beavers

would aid habitat regeneration. Resistance to wolves has. understandably, been pretty widespread in Scotland, A survey by The Scotsman last year revealed that only 17 per cent of locals wanted wolves on their doorsteps and just 36 per cent of all Scots favoured the idea. "Just because the Highlands are sparsely populated doesn't mean this is accept-



able," says George Anderson of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). "This is not the same country as it was 40, let alone 200, years ago; people who think that an animal should be reintroduced just because it once lived here seem to forget that." he says. "When people talk about bringing back wolves we simply say, 'think about it'."

The prospect of howling for the Ministry of Agriculture, wolves in Scotland, however, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

watercourses by wallowing, and destroying the woodland understorey. Then there's the risk of road accidents. "Imagine hitting a 300-pound boar at 60 miles an hour," he says. Boar are comparatively common across Europe and are generally tolerated, yet Tony Mitchell-Jones, a mammal ecologist at English Nature, points

out that Continental attitudes are heavily influenced by the powerful hunting lobby which prizes boar as a hig-game animal. In Britain, as eating habits have become more adventurous, the number of boar farms across the country has risen to about 50. The creatures are notorious escapologists and most farms have had more hreak-outs than a wet weekend at Colditz. Although the majority of boars are quickly recaptured or killed, some are thriving: "There are reports of breeding in Kent and possibly North Yorkshire," says Mr Mitchell-Jones. "We can't confirm these, but it's definitely possible."

Other hahits include hulldozing

through fences, damaging

Scientists say that accidental reintroduction would be a disaster. "Many farmed wild boar contain domestic pig genes," says a MAFF advisor. If these get out into the wild you end up with a bastardised feral pig - the worst of all possible worlds."

So if wolves and boars aren't acceptable, what about beavers? The outlook for this toothy creaa Rotavator and can cause ture is different - and there is a serious prospect of an officially backed reintroduction scheme. The preliminary research has provided promising results. "Most people think of dams when they picture beavers. hut that's the Canadian species. European beavers prefer tunnelling in the river hank," says Mairi Cooper, a vertehrate ecologist at SNH.

Tree-felling, another hahit associated with the animal, also appears to be less of a problem than might he imagined. Generally, heavers feed on herbaceous vegetation, and bark damage is confined to a narrow strip of land close to the water (some studies even suggest this may have a beneficial coppicing effect). Better still, so far the idea seems popular. Polis suggest that two-thirds of Scots favour the idea, and there are few objections from farmers or foresters. The only slight biccups have come from fishermen, worried that beaver activity might flood salmon spawning beds or block migrating fish. Research suggests that this is unlikely, however, and, as a next step, the scientists have tentatively pinpointed Norwegian heavers as those most closely related to their extinct Scottish cousins. Further work needs to be done on possible pilot sites, hut Ms Cooper says if all goes well the new millennium could see beavers swimming in Britain for



the first time in four centuries.

rought warnings from the water companies were all we needed for the heavens to open. In the last few days we have been nearly drowned by horizontally-driven rain: fields are awash, our little river is in spate, and springs are erupting in places that have been dry for years.

The amount of water coming down has been colossal. One inch of rain dumps 22,000 gallons on every acre, and I reckon we have had 4in during the week: our smallholding of 12 acres must therefore have been bombarded by nearly 10 million pounds of water. Yet only a tiny fraction of this lifegiving flood will be caught or used by man: most has already filtered away via land-drains and ditches into the river, and on down the Severn to the sea.

With the air full of talk about drought and global warming, it is easy to hecome obsessed about water. Walking up our modest stream, I try to estimate the flow. How long would it take to fill a 100-gallon bath? At its present rate, only a few seconds. This minor watercourse is channelling away hundreds of thousands of gallons every day, and it is only one of hundreds fuelling the big river.

I find it strange that our local water company, Severn Trent, which was ohliged to impose a long-running hosepipe han in the summer of 1995, is apparently doing so little to increase storage capacity. A spokeswoman assured me hlandly that its system of reservoirs, rivers and suhterranean aquifers is functioning well, but that no research is being done into the possibility of shunting water from the wet west to the dry east via some form

of national grid.
Other bodies such as the Environment Agency and British Waterways have considered some such scheme, perhaps using canals, for annual rainfall in the west (more than 100in in Snowdonia) is four times that in the east (22in in Cambridge); hut the idea is not as simple as it sounds. One difficulty is that the acid upland water of the Severn, derived largely from the Welsh mountains, is quite different from water flowing out of chalk and limestone, and would play havoc with the ecosystem if discharged straight into the Thames.

The most promising idea is the artificial recharging of aquifers, already pioneered with success by Thames Water, Hundreds of feet under London, beneath thick bands of clay, silt and sand, an immense mass of chalk extends 50 miles to north and south. The chalk, riven by horizontal



The air is full of talk about drought and global warming, yet only a fraction of our rainfall is stored

fissures, is in effect a colossal sponge. full of water which has filtered down through the overlying strata. For years, Thames Water has been abstracting through boreholes, but now it has begun doing the opposite: in times of plenty, such as fill-dike February, it is pouring treated water

than any on the surface in Britain. I find the idea of the aquifers agreeably mysterious. Is it not extraordinary that prehistoric sea water, still saline, should be lying

underground reservoir infinitely larger

back down, to replenish an

beneath Ahmgdon? Another simple and effective means of conserving water has been proposed by Mark Hatt, a hydraulic engineer and demolition expert based in Oxfordshire. Every house, he says. should have its own underground tank for collecting rainwater off the roof: indeed, such a tank should be a legal requirement for any new dwelling.

A pump would lift soft water to a header tank in the attic, to be used for flushing lavatories. This single innovation would cut mains consumption sharply; it would also provide a supply for hosing down cars, watering gardens and washing hair.

The farm on which I grew up in the Chilterns once depended entirely on the rainwater it could collect and store. High on the chalky hills, no ground supply was available, so five subterranean cisterns caught the runoff from the roofs of the house and its surrounding barns.

As in many crises brought on by the extravagance of modern living, there is something to be said for a return to systems that functioned perfectly well

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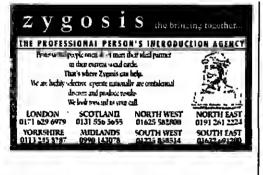
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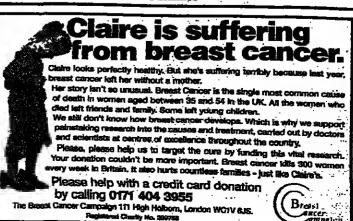
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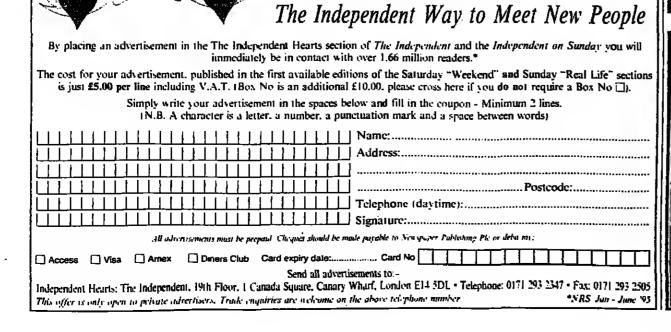
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Primrose Hill mob

Anna Pavord meets the men from the Garden Rescue Service

"My most famous idea in the bath yet" he catch bugs) and run a small garden library says. Mr Stephens runs the Garden Rescue Service, based in Primrose Hill, north London, and the green and yellow float, packed with tools, plants and garden rubbish, is a familiar sight in the streets of Sometimes it even strays as far as Notting

Hill Gate or Chelsea, where outlying window-boxes get the St John service.

But why a milk-floar? "It does less damage to our lungs than anything else I could think of," he replies. The pedal bikes with trailers they used previously were limited. They couldn't carry ladders, and hadn't: enough flat space to ferry plants about. The float has a battery, charged up overnight, and a big, flat base for plants. "When we stop at traffic lights, people try to buy stuff off the back of the float."

A big blackboard on the wall of their office - one of the waiting-rooms at the old Primrose Hill railway station - shows what the Garden Rescue Service is up to at the moment: landscaping, design, lighting, turling, fencing, trellis, clearance, pruning. They provide plants and build planters to put them in. They make pond

an you tell me whether planting a

I wisteria in a large

container such as a half-barret

is likely to be successful?" asks

Caroline Benwell of Herne Hill, London. "I long for a wisteria

draping my balcony, but my

surveyor has vetoed one in the

ground (subsidence, cracks,

drains etc). If not a wisteria,

could you suggest another climber (a vine? a hop?) that

might be happy in a container for many years? I want some-

loved. I did grow a Clematis

real of

e grant

ardeners to Babylon", it garden rubbish and deliver it to Camden's says on the front of St John recycling centre, where it is used to feed Stephens' milk-float. He's a power station. They advise on "inteproud of the milk-float. grated pest management" (using bugs to

for the use of their clients. "We're not just a maintenance service," says St John firmly, tugging his forage cap even lower down over his eyes. We like bish, is a familiar sight in the streets of to feel we are giving these gardens back Highgate, Islington and parts of Hackney. to their owners, for them to enjoy and work in as well. We help with things they can't tackle." Such as runaway wisteria,

overgrown rambling roses, leaking ponds.
City gardens have their own special problems: earth that is sometimes little more than ground-up bricks and mortar. drought, shade, cats - especially cats. And no side entrances. Only 20 per cent of the gardens that St John and his two team leaders, Leo and Josh, go to have direct access. The rest of them can be reached

only through the house. That means quantities of polythene sheet to cover the hall carpet, owners checking antionsly, all rubbish packed hygienically in black plastic bin-liners.
"On yes," says Leo, nodding his fair hair extensions (they are pulled back into a pony-tail). "We are very skilled at going

through houses."
St John's "moment of epiphany", as be covers and storage bins from recycled tim- puns if, happened on an allotment in Scot-ber. They have a little wildlife park at 3B. land. He funded his way through the Uni-

CUTTINGS

wisterias whose loving owners

can prove otherwise. If there

are. I'd like to hear from them.

thing that will be really happy as the same question, replied. The Alpine Garden Society is long as it's fed, watered and that wisteria would grow in a holding an early spring show

fub, but would be stunted.

montana in a half-barrel and persuaded myself that it didn't know it was in prison, but when leventually planted it properly, it positively exploded into growth and I felt guilty at having deprived it of freedom for so long."

I have ever seen in a continuer today (12pm-430pm) at Mark though, being continued, it Hall School, First Avenue, might come into flower more Harlow, Essex Fritillaries, dwarf narcissus, saxifrages, usually do. I waited eight years will be among the flowers put and I felt guilty at having deprived it of freedom for so long."

The most successful climber show. Admission £1.

has a lot of work to do, and it Baba jar on the roof garden of and tomorrow (11am 4pm) at is difficult to imagine that a Rick Mather, the architect It. The Gardens of the Rose,

half-barrel would provide suf-ficient spark. But there may be Chinese gooseberry, which in 850461). Admission £4.

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THE INDEPENDE

My own feeling is that a wisteria is unlikely to be happy for is an Actinidia chinensis which years in a half-barrel. If it is to drape Ms Benwell's balcony it lengths from a terracolta Afi

Summer droughts, accompanied by hosepipe bans are regular

of storing rainwater for use in the garden, all year round. It is

finished in green with a black lid and is moulded from durable

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occurences and sensible gardeners should seize the advantage of

This 49 pallon water but is an attractive and cost-efficient method.

Gardening Which?, asked

warmer climates produces kiwi fruit. When suited, it will grow

to 30ft. The leaves are hand-

Some dark green and heart-

shaped. It's worth growing as

a foliage plant alone and since

Ms Benwell mentioned a vine

and a hop as alternatives to the .

wisteria, she presumably does

not mind doing without flow-

ers. When the actinidia is est-

ablished, she could grow a

clematis (in a separate barrel)

The Alpine Garden Society is.

today (12pm-4.30pm) at Mark

The Royal National Rose

Society will hold its annual

priming demonstrations today

to scramble up through it.

More than a maintenance service: the rescue team (left to right) St John Stephens, Josh and Leo good at growing things, then picked up work as a jobbing gardener. But the cold

chef, then wandered northwards, set-adds Leo. "We'll happily bicker for hours" also sells plants and planters there. thing finally with a sister in Edinburgh. He acknowledges St John. "Josh won't give got the allotment to grow herbs, became house room to hibiscus, but he likes bergenia," Leo says the word with incredulity. "A healthy exchange of prejudices,"

explains St John... Greenness is important to them. And recycling. As few pesticides as possible. No petrol. No landfill. But with the vague, incoherent leaning towards the organic that often affects town gardeners, it's also good business. The little wildlife park they have made at 3B Goodsway in the shade of the world's first

And they don't spin a web of mystery around garden design. "Look," says St John. "Design has to come from function. A London garden has to be an extension of the house. So you just have to ask people what this room is for." "Courtyard and curtain," says Leo. "Courtyard and curtain," agrees St John. I begin to feel this is a manura that has passed me by. St John explains. The courtyard is the outside, living bit, the curtain the screen of plants that protects the courtyard from being overlooked, or screens off a bad

view. They are the two most important

Hardy border plants are

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the milk-float, parked on the far side of the railway bridge. As it sits there, bugeyed, unthreatening, with its cargo of rakes and compost, wisteria prunings and winter heathers, you realise what a clever piece of PR it represents. Leo and Josh are relieved that St John has finally decided against adding a couple of threewheeled vehicles to the transport fleet. "Inherently unstable" is the verdict; "inherently uncool" the sub-text.

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The Garden Rescue Service, 123 Regent's Park Rd, London NW1 (0171-586 7714).

is open Wednesdays and Fridays.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW BULTMAN

My trip ends with a ceremonial visit to

drove him south again and here be is in Primrose Hill, with - be seems slightly sur-

prised that it's so - his own business. The typical client, he says, is aged 28-50, professional, short of time but interested in the garden. "Publishers," puts in Leo. "Yes," says St John. "Lots of publishers." And is it easy to agree with a client what needs to be done in the garden? "Oh yes," says St John. "But we

gasometers has environmentally-friendly view. They are the two ponds and walkways, but Garden Rescue elements in any design. Goodsway, London NW1. They pick up: versity of East Anglia by working as a don't always agree amongst ourselves," gardening



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Not such super markets

Getting a bargain isn't so easy, reports Debbie Davies

supermarkets have thousands on offer. But do we get what we bargain for? The Consumers' Association says the proliferation of price cuts, free gifts and bonus points in supermarkets today actually confuses prices and makes price comparison and shopping around more difficult. Latest figures suggest it has a point.

company, says our supermarket shopping habits have changed surprisingly fast over the past two years. Onethird of us used to shop around between supermarkets; now only one in four does so. Our eye has moved instead to loyalty card bonus points and in-store promotions. Two years ago less than two-thirds of us always looked out for special price offers: today, 85 per cent of us shop this way. Our interest may be in filling our trolleys with promotions from the Olympiad of special deals on display; the reality is that the proportion we buy on promotion has hardly changed. Of the shopper's trolley, Nielsen says, last year 21.8 per cent of groceries selected were on promotion compared with 21.2 per cent the previous year.

So a shopping environment that makes hig promises about giving so much away free does not necessarily mean more savings for shoppers.

Worse, it can cost you money. Clive Vaughan, retail director with Verdict, a company that studies supermarkets, says that there comes a point at which more price promotion is counter-productive for shoppers, "Faced with a kaleidoscope of signs, customers can lose Consumers' Association's theory on confusion pricing, shoppers have no choice hut to stick with a brand of choice hut to stick with a bran

veryone wants a bargain. The and price cuts can leave you bewildered and even out of pocker. This is what happened to me when I went on a supermarket sweep in search of

Information overload. Three

items I bought registered a higher price at the check-out than that advertised on the shelf. Providing you know the correct price, stores will check your information and correct AC Nielsen, a market research their mistake, as they did in my case, or risk falling foul of misleading price legislation. Supermarkets rely on staff to synchronise prices dis-played on shelves with those charged at the check-out. This means thousands of changes in store every week: Tesco claims it offers 2,000 price promotions in addition to 600 lowest price deals: Sainsbury runs a more sedate 1,000 special promotions, but the entire offer changes every week. With supermarkets open seven days and 24-hour opening mooted. Nick Aderly, head of in-store marketing and promotion at Sainsbury, admits: "There are times when the supermarket's shelf tickets do not tally with prices charged at the check-out." Electronic shelf-edge pricing is the ultimate thermostat on promotions, allowing supermarkets to turn offers on and off, up and down, electronically, with simultaneous changes across the point-of-sale program and the shelf edge, but the cost of installation means that this may be some way away. More likely are hand-held scanners which will roam the store with you, flashing promotional messages at you as you shop.

 The missed opportunity. Common sense tells you that everyone will pick up the free product when they touch with price positioning," he says. At this point, according to the retailer or product they know in the lines, know that hetween 5 and 20 per hope that the familiar can be relied cent of shoppers will miss out on the on to offer the best value for money. free product, effectively paying twice In practice it is easy to see how the what they should have for buying the supermarkets torrent of promotions single item. Like the National Loi- deals and special prices around the In fact, the promotion was on an- as strong as it ooce was.



The supermarkets' torrent of promotions can leave you bewildered

tery's unclaimed millions, every store. Confectionery promotions, supermarket must have its stack of such as Tesco's current promotion on unclaimed freebies. It would be sim-

ple to rectify. "Buy one, get one free" offers could be banded together, or the supermarket point-of-sale terminals could be programmed to relay a message at the check-out that the customer is entitled to a free item. rather than the current system which comes into play to deduct the second item only when the customer takes it. I missed out on free hot cross buns, frozen vegetables and cheesecake, all on "buy one, get one free" promotion, because I did not see the signs or was not reading the promotional messages carefully enough. And don't expect staff at the check-out to tip you off. Even when I tried buying some of the most heavily promoted "three for two" offers, no one told me that when you buy two you

can take another pack for free. selective about how they advertise -3kg-with the promotion message.

Lindt chocolate, which allows you to buy one and get another at half price, would seem highly relevant at the kiosk you typically find at the entrance to supermarkets. Here, purchases are very often confectionery. In fact, Tesco makes no mention of the promotion at its kiosks, although it displays Lindt here along with other confectionery. You need to be shopping in the meat department before you come across the promotional message. So the shopper who is already likely to buy confectionery buys unaware of his entitlement to another bar at half the price, while the promotion tempts those buying meat to add chocolate to their trolley. I was caught out with a soap pow-der promotion. Following the "buy one, get one half price" sign. I chose the powder next to the sign, cbeck-In the dark. Supermarkets are ing the size of pack I needed to buy

other brand of powder, so I paid full price for my 6 kg of soap powder.

• The duds. 200 extra points on

your loyalty card when you buy two packs of Typhoo 160 tea bags at £2.99 per pack is a far speedier way to earn rebates than adding points at the usual rate of five for every £5 spent, This offer featured in Sainsbury's Reward Card promotion last month but it appeared less attractive when I compared the price I paid for tea. Instead of £5.98, I could have paid £2.68 for two packs of Waitrose 160 tea bags. Yes, paying £3.30 more for two packs of Typhoo gained an extra 200 points, or £2 voucher, but as it was foil-wrapped, round lea bags with tea of specified origin that I wanted, Waitrose fitted the bill just as well as

Typhoo.
This bunch of promotions added more than £6 to my bill, against which I can set savings. I have just about managed to break even. My natural appetite for promotions is oot quite

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Under the Counter

Dirty weekends? I'd rather stay at home

was made to go to the country last weekend. Getting away from it all ounds heavenly, but in reality I don't want to get away from it all. I like it all.

In order to make this rustic sojourn as brief as possible, I spent Friday night in town and dosed up on the synthetic pleasures of metropolitan life, trying to block out the manure and cider that was waiting at the end of the motorway. Saturday morning involved lugging heaps of unflattering outerwear to the car, as our hosts were bound to make us go for cold, damp walks round their muddy land, to admire their yawningly efficient fences and incredibly dull ditches.

On arrival, down on the farm, initial depression set in as I bad to gird my loins and protect my soft Italian handbag from the eight dogs and the charging geese. Our hostess (seven months preg-nant with twins) was wearing a never-washed hairy sweater and stirring a pot of something brown and steaming on the Aga. After we had patted ber tumniy and congratulated him on his amazingly powerful testicles, there came an immense lift to my country blues - they poured

Then it was time for dinner. As I lifted a forkful of duck, a bearty shout came. from the kitchen: "Watch out for the shot!" Thank God I didn't crunch on one of these mini ballbearings, as I've just spent more money oo a filling than I did on a new tumble drier. My husband, however, hit the jackpot, and was spitting out shot all evening. I bad been boping that knead-ing had oot come into our hostess's culinary preparations, but dessert was homemade apple pie. I won't have to take any Yakult for a

while, as she could have

us huge G&Ts and switched

on Blind Date.

those palms.
Of the country pursuits I might have dreaded, Sunday morning's activity hadn't even crossed my mind - a 7.30am start to take fifty cute little lambs to the slaughter. We hadn't even had breakfast! On arrival at the abatgrim-faced ewe with rigor mortis, who had come down from Scotland, but obviously didn't travel well. I tried not to think of the talking sheep in Babe, and boped it would be beef for lunch.

Our host's idea of a preprandial was to make us muck out the cattle, then give them bales of stinking silage (which the poor cows actually eat). At least I was semi-prepared for this, and had doused my polo-neck with Giorgio, so was able to smother myself every time a bale arrived.

It was beef. In fact it was "Flossie" for lunch. But we were only eating her because she had no reproductive organs, so there was no point in keeping her. Yum, yum pass the horseradish.

Never again will I be tricked with promises of bucolic bliss. It's all about dung and death in the country. I can create my own rural idyll at home - safely within the boundaries of the M25. **Emulating Emmerdale:** Cultivate stomach flora hygienically with Yakult (each 65ml bottle contains 6.5 billioo active Lactobacillus casei Shirota). A pack of seven costs £2.50 from most supermarkets; wallow in manure-free mud with Allava black, mineral-rich Dead Sea mud, £14.95 per kilo from Selfridges, Oxford Street, Loodon; adopt a pig. £20, or a goat, £90, from London Zoo, and visit it wheo feeling Marie Antometteish, telephone 0171-722 3333 for details.

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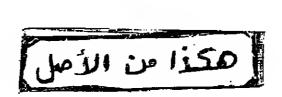
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The same of the same of the same of



shopping

Tales of men's shirts

Don't pay the most for the best. By Andy Zneimer

t is safe to say that London is inter-nationally acknowledged to be the world's premier shirt capital. With one or two exceptions, such as Charvet in Paris, all the great shirtmakers are based here and it is to the British capital that connoisseurs flock to pur-chase the ultimate status symbol in shirts. For nigh on 100 years, Jermyn Street, SW1 - and its environs - has been the place for bespoke and off-the-peg shirt tailoring, and it will probably remain so until shirts go out of fashion.

Yet the fact remains that whilst anybody m their right mind would enjoy the pure luxury factor of a shirt fit for a king, not everybody can afford to make a regular trip to SW1. And that's why man in his infinite wisdom created the high street. Certainly, the true shirt scenario would not be complete without a mention of the increasingly competitive standards to be found

Marks & Spencer, for instance, sells its comprehensive range of traditional City shirts at £32.50. If you're looking for a comfortable shirt that's fabulous value for money and practically a classic, you need look no farther. They come with double cuffs and you can opt for stripes, checks or solids in 100 per cent cotton. Alter natively, the M&S superfine range of men's shirts retails at £27 and is available with either single or double cuffs, with classic or cut-away collar. One interesting feature of this shirt is its differentiated tail length - the back being longer than the front. The senior selector for men's shirts, Gary Toyne, reports that "this season is all about colour." The shelves certainly

son is all about colour." The shelves certamly make a visual feast, with emerald green, azure blue and red catching the eye.

C&A's latest shirt offering is in non-iron technology. The top 33 stores will be stocking these quality superfine cottons from European fabric mills in both solid and yarn-dyed patterns from Marcb, retailing at £20 each. There are three other shirt ranges from C&A at £5, £12 and £17 each, the price depending mainly on the fabrics employed. These offer highly functional shirts, which handle cleanly and crisply tional shirts, which handle cleanly and crisply and are eminently wearable for business or for-

mal occasions. However, if money is no object, and should you be looking to invest in a garment of the very finest quality, painstakingly constructed to last and made to measure to fit that unique shape that is you, there is really only a limited mimber of "off high-street" establishments to visit:

Peter Wilshere has been with New & Lingwood of SW1 for some 20 years. "We have a shop at 'the school'," be says - Bton, that is "which sells everything for the boys, including stockings. The old boys come here when they

The New & Lingwood bespoke twofold cotton poplin shirt will set you back £125, but is truly a hand-crafted work of art. (Off-the-per shirts retail for between £75 and £79, accounting for roughly 75 per cent of sales). The term 'twofold' means that two yarns are twisted together, lending additional strength and elasticity without adding bulk. There is a minimum order of four hand-cut shirts, which is common practice. Dukes and earls can have coronets. band-embroidered for a noble £30.

There are pattern books that contain around 1,000 designs, with many classic stripes and checks, fabrics that include sumptuous Sea: Island cotton quality, costly crepe silk (you can pay up to £260), collars of every conceivable shape and a surprising range of colours. The current trend, Mr Wilshere informs me merrily, is for very conservative bengals and fine bengals (stripes), but for the spring somewhat fancier stripes will be on offer, and customers should look out for the brighter solids.

Twice a year, in March and October, the gentlemen of New & Lingwood bead west to measure and fit small, medium, large and sometimes huge clients in New York, Washington and Boston. The shirts arrive a fittle later by and Boston. The shirts arrive a little later by courier, in return for a princely sum.

Hilditch and Key was established in London in 1899, with a branch in the rue de Rivoli, Paris, opening in 1925. With its own factory in Glenrothes, north of Edinburgh, Hilditch and Key received a Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1993:

The list of "key customers" makes for interesting reading, it includes the Dukes of Mariborough and Kent, Ronnie Corbett, Jeremy Paxman and Mel Brooks, as well as a number of the crowned heads of Europe and a liberal smattering of government ministers. It is well known that all the shirts worn by Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel models on the catwalks are from Hilditch and Key.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the price of

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The second

bespoke twofold cotton poplin shirts starts at £125, and there is a minimum order of six. However, the superb off-the peg range is more affordable, with plans at £59.95 each, basicstripes at £65 and the more exclusive fabrics

weighing in at £69.95 per shirt. "Our shirts are simply the best money can buy," says the chairman, Michael Booth. His tip for spring/summer is for plains in strong colours, with lilac as the leading contender.

Harvie & Hudson, at 77 Jermyn Street, prefers not to reveal its client list. There's little to choose between them all, but perhaps this is the most conservative shirt shop of all. The business is run by the sons and grandsons of the original TG Harvie and GF Hudson. "There is a feeling at present for bright solids," states JW Harvie Prices of made to measure shirts begin at £115 for single cuffs and £145 for double, with off-the-peg shirts costing £60 and some of the finest silks priced at £95. There are seven basic collar types but, should these not suffice, no shape is too much of a challenge. Harvie & Hudson, surprisingly, run a flourishing mail order business.

Simon Hobbs, a salesman at Turnbull & Asser (by appointment to the remove of waters), since and my tavourite took for the season is a informs me that clients sometimes request "the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all in the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all in the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all in the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all in the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and tie, all the sharply tailored suit with a shirt and not be cajoled into revealing any examples, but have made of all that? Boateng bespoke shirts



does mention that the Israeli PM will be dropping in shortly and that Gary Oldman is a regular. Here you must buy six bespoke shirts at £100 each to open an account, with the most expensive priced at £155. There is a range of 10 collar shapes, and fabrics available include Oxford, Zephyr, Turnbuline, Voile, Sea Island cotton quality and; perbaps the Rolls-Royce of them all, Zendeline. A Turnbull & Asser shirt is certainly not a fashion item - it all began in

1885, you see. They tend to be extremely practical garments. The final bespoke tailor to look out for is Ozwald Boateng, 9 Vigo Street, W1; but compared to the others he is from another planet, being positively funky. He says that: "spring/ summer '97 is the time for a bit of adventure. The theme of the collection is Mission Impossible and my favourite look for the season is a

start at £135 (minimum order, three), with offthe-peg costing not much less.

However, if you're just starting out in life, and need to look the part without spending quite as much cash, fear not. There are plenty of high quality and affordable off-the-peg shirts out there that won't get you hot under the collar. The two key labels of repute to check out are Thomas Pink and TM Lewin, both of which are favoured by City whiz-kids.

Thomas Pink, owned by the Mullen brothers and possibly to be floated on the London Stock Exchange for some £15m, currently has 15 UK outlets, with shops in New York and Dublin about to open. Thomas Pink shirts are made of fine, twofold Egyptian cotton poplin, have extra-long tails, a generous box cut, sleeves pleated into the cuffs and semi-cut-away collars, and at £49.50 they are as good as you can get. The new Continental range begins at £69 per shirt and features bold pinks, lilacs, yellows and mint greens, in Royal Oxford cloth

and with a more pointed collar. Checks (unobtrusive ones are in), stripes and plains are all a part of the Pink repertoire. TM Lewin will be 100 years old next year.

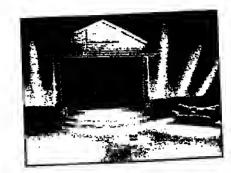
There is something to be said for having made your own shirts for that long, and the company bas a factory in Southend that continues the tradition admirably. Prices start at £47.50 for a cotton poplin shirt, with the new Lewin collection, tailored from the very highest quality fabrics and weaves, at £55 per shirt. Lewin shirts are known for their durability and comfort. They bave a distinctly generous cut, a split back yoke, a long tail and double-stitched seams, and are available with the option of double or hutton cuffs. Removable collar stiffeners come as standard. Uniquely, TM Lewin offers four sleeve lengths and four collar sizes, with the full range of patterns and plains you would expect to find plus some surprises. In addition, the company has a flourishing mail order business. Once again, superlatives are in order.

Ad Watch

The emotional charge of a mushy pea

f you thought mushy peas were safely banished to a dim memory of school dinners, think again. Like hangers and mash and shepherd's pie, mushy peas are on the menus of some of London's smartest eateries - courtesy of Gary Rhodes, among others. In an attempt to cash in, Batchelors has launched its first national advertising campaign for tinned mushy peas.

the market research company Euromonitor. although tinned peas remain the second most popular canned food after tomatoes, sales fell by 12.7 per cent from £63m to £55m between 1992 and 1996. "[Tinned] peas are not only losing uut to convenience foods." Euromonitor concludes. "They're also part of a traditional diet which has fallen out of favour with



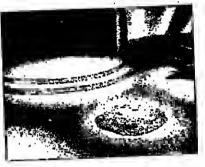
"Nobody makes peas mushy like Batchelors", the TV commercial claims, as it shows a plump green pea reduced to a hlubhering mulch when confronted with a This Is Your Life-style reunion of friends and family. The commercial follows an earlier ad first run two years ago in northern England, where it resulted in a 26 per cent increase in local sales.

"Peas play a central role in Batchelors' heritage." explains Sara Bennison, an account director at the advertising agency Ammirati Puris Lintas. Batchelors was the first to put peas in tins 21 years ago. However, hy 1994, the market for canned peas was in long-term decline. Batchelors had not advertised the product

many UK consumers, especially higher income

Mushy peas certainly polarise opinion. They remind me of my childhood - they taste comforting." says Ánna Jones, a midlander seen shopping in Tesco this week. "Which is exactly why I'd never eat them again." grimaces her friend. Margaret Hunter, a southerner born and bred.

-People either love them. or hate them," Bennison concedes. However, she believes the product - now known by the Batchelors' marketing team as 'Yorkshire caviar' - can bridge this gulf, Shoppers associate certain emotional values with the product, even if they no longer eat it, she claims, "People see it as



company decided to give it one last go with a modest (in advertising terms, at least) £250,000 hudget.

Batchelors has now decided to go national. "It's really a northern hrand, but we want to tap into the current British food revival," says Collette Lux, of Batchelors' parent company. Van den Bergh Foods. "People are returning to traditional culinary values. Mushy peas have as much national relevance as Boddingtons, which comes from Manchester."

Peas, it seems, have got trendy. The new campaign is a shrewd strategy driven by necessity; according to

Most people have eaten The point is to get them to try cating them again."

No direct competitor challenges Batchelors' market dominance, hut own-label mushy peas are a constant threat. Batchelors, however, has a secret weapon. Step forward the super-plump 'Bunting pea'. It may be an uphill struggle against prejudice, but in a market long characterised by slimmer peas, tough tacrics are required. We use the term 'voluptuous'.' Bennison explains, "It's all part of an attempt to turn the market on its head and say: 'big is good'."

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The abiding virtues of an SL

James Ruppert on the wisdom of investing in a second-hand Mercedes sports car

heen a sports car with such a long waiting-list. A second-hand Mcrcedes SL, hig brother to the SLK. and in some people's view even more gorgeous, can cost from as little as £5,000. And if you fancy one, you can have it today.

It has always been the case that whatever Mercedes you buy, from the cheapest saloon to the most expensive limousine, the impression is that the company started with a solid block of steel and chiselled away at it to make a Merc. The socalled "sporis" SL models are no exception when it comes to solidity and build quality. People like that in a car; it makes them feel safe, that they are getting engineering value for n. ney, and that it will never let them down. In used-car terms the SL is nothing less than a blue-chip investment. From the £80,000 stratosphere down to the £5.000 slum, there is an SL for just about every-

Although the sedate and comfy Mercedes SLs have always been successful on the US west coast and in the nouveaux riches English home counties, the models have a proud sporting lineage. This goes back to the track, when the legendary 300SL was created to compete in the 1952 racing season. Adding gull-wing doors to a production 300SL contributed to the myth, although the roots of this model, and a much less potent 190SL open-topped roadster, were a saloon car. These models were replaced by the cleanly styled and quintessentially Sixties SLs which were becoming less sporting and more sybaritic. These cars featured a removable "pagoda-style" steel hardtop, which transformed the convertible into a snug winter coupé.

Just in case you wondered, SL stands for sehr leicht, but the 1972 model was far from "very light" - it had clearly been on a high-calorie binge. Nevertheless, this model, which survived until 1989, has been the most successful and recognisable SL of all. Its successor SL took the hi-tech route and returned to original SL principles - and proved that Mercedes should still be taken seriously as producers of high-performance sports

While the early SLs are collectors' items and the Sixties versions are contemporary classics, it is the last two versions which are the most "afford-

new Mercedes SLK, latest sports car dar-ling of Europe's style set, will cost you about £30,000, but you'll have to wait two years to get hold of one. There has rarely

able" and practical buys. To find out what the appeal of these cars is, I went to see Richard Leach, proprietor of Richards, a Surrey-based Mercedes specialist. "Quite simply these are unique sports cars. Nothing else is built like them: properly serviced and maintained, an SL is a sports car for life. The quality of the mechanicals, upholstery, bodywork and switchgear is second to none. The SLs' unique selling point,

though, is the removable bard-

top. Pop that on in winter and

it turns a convertible into a

proper coupé. You cannot

possibly tell that the car

s meant to be convert-

Remarkably, Richard Leach has witnessed a huge resurgence of interest in the older model from the Seventies. "When the new SL came out, prices of the old car dropped significantly, but recently the values bave been climbing. Basically there is nothing like it on the market, and tech-

nically it is much simpler to look after." A glance at the range produced

D462 LAG

between 1971 and 1989 is very confusing. There were six-cylinder models, the 280 and 300SL, which some drivers find too sedate. Then there were the V8s - the larger the number, the bigger the engine. All are thirsty for fuel, but many believe that the 500 and 560SL were the finest

luxury sports cars ever built. When you are buying, a service history is essential - even a Mercedes can deteriorate. SLs don't normally rust, but on a very old

example, corrosion can nibble at the wheel arches, the sills and

around the head-

lamps. Underneath, the chassis can also rot. Mechanically, the engines should last a lifetime, but if little used or neglected they will corrode internally. Be warned: if the engine sounds noisy, or is sluggish and leaks oil, there will be big repair bills. Prices for these models in first-class condition are going to be £12,600 to £14,000. And a good car, especially a late Eighties example, can go for more than £20,000.

Richards bad a 1984 280SL in red with beige cloth allow wheeks a rear seat and ARS brakes. lamps. Underneath, the chassis can also rot.

cloth, alloy wheels, a rear seat and ABS brakes for £14,995. Twelve years old maybe, but it looked brand new. Over at Sunningdale Motors in Berkshire, a top-of-the-range late-model 1988 500SL tipped the scales at £21,950. Clearly, these old cars won't go out of fashion. If you want a really cheap SL, then the fixed-roof coupés, hadged SLCs, which are longer.

beavier and much less desirable, offer a cheap entry into the marque. However, the £4.995 SLC I spotted on a south London car lot looked decidedly tarty np close. In such a situation it is best to walk away. At the other end of the scale are the new model

SLs. Sophisticated, hi-tech, very safe, very fast and remarkably accomplished cars. Ask Diana, Princess of Wales. This car is the aristocrat of sports cars and virtually faultless in use. An SL that is not perfect, or has an imperfect

history, is almost unsaleable. Always buy from a dealer or specialist, or get a proper engineer's report before taking the plunge into SL owner-ship. Choose between a range-topping 600SL, or the equally competent but cheaper 300SL. Somewhere in the middle is the multi-valve 300SL-

24. These are all automatics, but what a choice. Obviously, the best ones can be found at Mercedes dealers. Derwent in Leeds bad a 1993 600SL with just 10,000 miles on the clock, and every conceivable extra, retailing for £68,995. Whereas a car trader operating from a very large bouse in Buckinghamshire offered me a 1989 500SL which was equally over-equipped. for just £34,999.

Looking at used SLs is instructive - almost without exception they look as good as the day they were delivered. Clearly, the SL is a very special kind of sports car. One day maybe all convertibles will be this good.

Richards 01483 272020; Sunningdale Motors: 01344 20072; Derwent 0113244 3000.



Play-it-safe design for a surprising performer

Deceptive Benz: immaculate SLs can be yours for £5,000

production, for fear of inhibiting consumer demand - and the designers of its replacement are troubled.

What on earth can they do this time? Stay with the aggressively sporty theme brought in with the old one, all snarling nose, high fastback tail and Thunderbirds instrumentation? Or retreat into play-itsafe Prelude heartland, a boxier, gentler, more apologetic look, the better to please the blue-rinse set? That's how Preludes used to be, like it or not; sporty, but not too sporty. And that, the designers will decide with typical caution, is how it is to be again.

The resulting coupé looks unremarkable apart from its huge headlight lenses covering sculpturally stepped reflectors. The interior, though well made from highquality materials [fake wood embellishment excepted) is equally uninspired; it could have come from any car maker. So far, then, there is little to light the fires

Yet under the Prelude's tidy but selfeffacing skin lies some interesting mechanical hardware. In the 2.2-litre engine's energy, which is concentrated

hey are toiling away in the Honda engine of the top models, there's a design department. The previous VTEC variable camshaft system which Prelude's allotted span is nearing its helps unleash a healtby 185bhp, and lets end - Japanese cars seldom stay long in the engine roam free right up to 7.800rpm. The suspension is precise in its movements, sophisticated in its design, and incorporates rear-wheel steering which, among other things, helps you to manoeuvre in a tight spot, once you have learot the wheels' un-

familiar trajectories. This much the previous Prelude also had, but what is new this time around is the option of a four-speed automatic transmission with a "sequential sports shift", a device similar to the Porsche Tiptronic system which allows you to select gears manually by prodding the lever forwards to change up, or tapping it backwards to change down.

If the bulk of your driving is of the town and motorway variety, save up the extra £1,200 and order your Prelude with the sequential shifter. That's because the manual transmission is tiresomely snatcby in traffic, the victim of wobbly engine mountings and a fierce clutch. But if you enjoy a good zoom along clear back roads, you must have the manual.

That's because it lets you exploit the



PHOTOGRAPH: OILLON BRYDEN

towards the higher end of the speed range and calls for frequent gear changes. In the automatic, the gaps between the gears feel too wide to keep the engine interested, even when you're sequentially selecting them yourself. So you end up frustrated, because there's

motor, and you're denied access to its same direction as the front ones, makattributes. The gear shifts are jerky,

Either way, few cars corner as well as the Prelude with so little skill asked of its driver. That's where the rear-wheel steering's other trick comes into play. It Trouble is, to look at it you would never this fabulous-sounding, crackling-crisp turns the rear wheels, very slightly, in the know.

ing the Prelude so agile through tight twists that it feels almost weightless. That has long been a Prelude party trick, so nothing has changed there. This can be

Specifications Price: £22,295 on the road. Engine: ,157cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, p at 7,000rpm; nve-speed n or four-speed automatic/sequential gearbox, front-wheel drive, Top speed: 142mph, 0-60 in 7.3sec. Fuel consumption: 25-30mpg.

Alfa Romeo GTV, £20,350-Looks to fulfil every Alfa fantasy, with sharp handling and crisp performance to match. Prone to rattles. BMW 323i Coupé, £23,140 More space than the Honda, and a creamy six-cylinder engine. Expensive but still

covetable. Flat Coupé 20V Turbo, £21,244 Boldest styling of all, now with a fabulons five-cylinder engine to fulfil the promise. Best of the lot. Nissan 200 SX, £21,000 on the road.

Lots of pace from turbo engine, but tricky to bandle in the wet. Recently Toyota Celica GT, £23,582 on the road. Quick, capable and more interesting to look at than mainstream Toy-

otas. Shows its age.

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rst Newsweek tags London the world's coolest city; now Vanity Fair says that "London Swings Again!" If you ask me, London isn't all that different from a few years ago, but if a couple of middleaged American mags say that t is suddenly great again, then guess it must be true.

According to Vanity Fair, icons of cool Ninctles London nclude Gazza (a Geordie), Mancbester (eh?), Björk (who comes from Iceland) and Ruby Wax (who's about as Briosh as the Vauxhall Corsa she promotes). And if you really want 10 get depressed about the state of modern British icons, there are also mobile phones, ecstasy tablets, Loaded magazine and Liam and Patsy. But

what about the cars? The E-type Jag and the Mini were massive Sixties statements, as much a part of the trendy times as Twiggy, Ossic Clark's chiffon dresses and Carnaby Street. The E-type was a mobile sign of sexual liberation - a thrusting, phallicshaped sportster that was also one of the fastest cars in the world. The Mini was the first British classless car, as likely to be driven by Peter Sellers or Lord Snowdon as by a stevecool transport in the Ninelies. the only mode that gets a

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mention is Virgin Atlantic Airways Premium Economy. Restaurants, fashion, music,

magazines: they're all booming in the Great Wen. But as for cars, London apparently swings with all the vitality of a traffic jam on Putney Bridge. Is this a reflection of our

neutered motor industry, now foreign owned and largely a manufacturing site for cars designed and engineered elsewhere? Or are the self-styled arbiters of swinging Ninetics coolness giving the poor old car business short shrift?

The Mini is just about worthy of another plug, in the same way that Terence Conran gets one again. They're both Sixties icons still going strong. But while Conran keeps reinventing himself, the Mini really is on its last wheels. The only Japanese, and that's because trendiness. Quite the opposite. British!

The ultimate in British cool is a car named after somebody called Trevor

it's now Brit traditional, not Brit radical. Which means it just isn't chic any more.

No other Rover product is cool, either, though the MGF almost qualifies. It bas an androgynous quality - rather like many Britpop stars - and is a fine sports car to drive. But it's more Marks & Spencer than Alexander McQueen.

was partly developed here). It is cool and has a beguiling pout - rather like Patsy Kensit in a bad mood - but is a bit too Fisher Price from some

angles. Close, but not quite. What about the E-type's successor, the Jaguar XK8? It ative. The host of British-made Japanese cars, of course, do

They define a nation obsessed by practical, everyday, ntilitarian virtues: a nation of shopkeepers. There is nothing cool or trendy about Vanxhalls (and very little British about them. either). Pink Rolls-Royces are no longer made for latter-day Lady Penelopes or John Lennons, Astons and Bentleys

are too trad and conservative. No, there's only one make of car that's in tune with the modern British Zeugeist, even if the editors of Vanity Fau bave probably never heard of it. It's a car that's loud, anreliable and uncouth - just like Liam Gallagher. Yet it has a perversely classical twist, like a Paul Smith suit. It is made in a factory that's dirty and downat-heel, rather like Camden (the Nineties Chelsea, according to Varity Fair). And it's as More smiling is the Ford Ka flag-wavingly nationalistic as a (OK, it's made in Spain, but crowd of Gazza groupies.

Finally, in keeping with its working class origins, this car is an abbreviation of the name of one of its founders: a bloke called Trevor. So hats off to TVR, that dyspeptic, belching, brutish, eye-catching fast, lad-dish sports car, sold mostly in looks great, and drives great Britain because so few other too, but its styling is tike derive world car markets would tolerworld car markets would tolerate its foibles. Like Liam and Patsy, Louded and Gazza. people who love it now are the nothing to imply British . TVR makes you proud to be

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When the family leaves home

... Why don't you? By Penny Jackson

here comes a time in life when climbing up a ladder in gale-force winds to replace roof tiles is just not on. Rebellion sets in residential use, empty-nesters are in a least supply, and with the huge expansion need an assortment of people around you. I've met more people in the months here than I did in Sittingbourne the whole time residential use, empty-nesters are in a least the residential use. after years of patching up the rambling section of the market that is spoilt for family home - and an increasing number of couples are determined not to spend their retirement mowing acres of lawn and painting crumbling sash windows. It can . They have recently moved to rural Norfolk be as much a relief as a wrench to sell up.

That's not to say that these empty-nesters, liberated from domestic toil, are going to be satisfied with a home of boxlike proportions. Nor are they are by any means ready to head for purpose-built retirement homes. There are the grandchildren to house from time to time, to say nothing of the furniture.

Developers and agents alike have found that the key requirements for empty-nesters are security and low maintenance, combined with character and reasonable space. Beaufort Homes even makes the point of putting a buge old wardrobe in its show flat at Imperial Apartments in Cheltenham.

The buying power of the newly retired. who more often than not will have a good pension and all the financial advantages of trading down, puts them in a strong market position. At present they are selfing the kind of houses that are in shortchoice. They can even be adventurously flexible about the area they choose.

Take David and Margaret Ormerod. from their bome base in Kent via Bournemouth and Cornwall. Their wide-roaming search ended at a disused US Air Force base at Wicken Green, near Fakenham. The once treeless site has been planted with a thousand saplings, and the officers' bungalows renovated and painted. "We fell for the peace and quiet and the space of the homes, says David Ormerod, who is a complete newcomer to Norfolk, "We have three double-sized" bedrooms and a huge living room. The. ceilings are high and the loft is enormous.

The garden is a good size, too." New owners are beginning to stamp their individuality on the previously uniform village of 210 homes, described by the developers, Brunswick Homes, as having a "Continental feel". It was important to Mr Ormerod that it should evolve as a mixed community, not as a preserve for the retired, whose numbers are growing fast. "I'm not at that stage in my life. You

But it is security, such as cameras at the gate, that the Ormerods value above all else. "People tried to break into our house in Kent, and we could never leave the car unlocked, whereas here we have no worries," says David Ormerod. With the money saved on trading down to homes which initially sold for about £30,000, he intends to invest in a place in Tenerife. We need to be able to leave it [Norfolk] for a few months of the year."

Buyers in their sixties have a very clear idea of what they want. Berkeley Homes houses, which have solid floors and plenty of well-crafted detail, are popular with cou-ples making the transition from old to new.

. They come and talk to us at an early stage of construction because they know exactly what has to go where," says Paul Vallone, sales and marketing director of the company. "We will put in an Aga, say. if that's what they are used to."

No one who is used to a comfortable, stylish bome will compromise simply because they need something smaller. Indeed, the old-fashioned country cottage tends to lose its appeal if an attractive but more manageable alternative is on offer. distance from the doctors," she adds.



Empty nesters: David and Margaret Ormerod who made a fresh start in Norfolk

Liz White and her husband William left an old cottage in the Reading area for a new version with a garage, in a small development in Great Bedwyn. They wanted real countryside away from busy roads, a factor in many older people's decision to move. Beaufort's mixture of homes next to the church extends rather than intrudes on the village. "We have pubs, bakers, a stonemason and a basket market, just the sort of friendly village we were looking for," says Mrs White. The rail link means they do not have rely on a car. "We are also within zimmer-frame

Another rich source of smallish country bomes is the barn conversion, which is emerging from its rather tattered Eighties image of slapdash and cheap workmanship. Philip Blanchard. of John D Wood, knows why barns appeal to the older buyer. "The size of the rooms means that people don't have to get rid of their furniture.

Hugh Kitchin from Hampshire, who specialises in barn conversions, says you get the feel of a period building, but with a modern interior. Barns are also spacious and secure. "We keep as much that is original as we can. At Chawton we put can air base homes for that kind of money.

sitting rooms on the first floor to get the most from the vaulted ceilings." In Hampshire, good conversions start at more than £200,000.

Devon and Cornwall, though, still have enormous pull with the retired. Madeline Collins, of Marchand Petit in Kingsbridge, has bundreds of enquiries from people wanting to move to the area. Most have come for holidays for years. Their perfect house, on the Salcombe estuary with a waterfront and sea views, is not only rare, but will cost upwards of half a million." You can buy a lot of old Ameri-

House policy: taking sides on gazumping and the law

hen staff at Hamp-tons' Hampstead office turned up for work recently, they found the word "gazumper" scrawled in white paint across the winwould doubtless welcome the Labour Party's intention to outlaw the practice. Gazumping - when a vendor, having already accepted an offer, takes a higher one from another buyer - is a feature of a high-demand, low-volume. market such as the present one. The last time it was prevalent was in the Eighties boom. but calls for the problem to be addressed died away during the recessionary Nineties.

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Estate agents, who deplore the practice without being able to do anything to prevent. it, quite naturally take the brunt of a victim's anger. Marc Goldberg of Hamptons proposals as long as they do says that if a vendor reneges on a deal, it is the agent who breaks the bad news to the. buyer and is often regarded as guilty by association. "We are very impopular at the moment and I would support

any steps to bring an end to gazumping. But if it is to has some of the features of the work, I believe there should Scottish system, which many When gazomping happens, age done to our standing.

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy; chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) wants to see backing for a pre-contract deposit agreement which would be legally binding. Under the agreement, a buyer and seller would each put up 0.5 per cent mentation ready it can be a of the value of the agreed price slow process. There is nothing and commit themselves to an to stop gazumping in this exchange of contract within a period, he said. Also if legiscertain number of weeks. The lation is to be even-handed it filted party would be paid the should apply to gazundering deposit, which should at least, (when buyers re-offer at a cover the costs of solicitors lower price in a falling marfees and the survey. "I would ket) as well as gazumping." support the Labour Party's. The penalty for not comnot hamper the workings of the market. The compensation should be sufficient for both penalty for breaking the arrec ment, but not so much that it ties up sales.

has some of the features of the be a financial penalty, such as people look to as a shining a non-returnable deposit, example of bow it could be example of bow it could be anyone advising on property done. But the NAEA believes dows. Clearly one of the many: the extra amount; agents the differences in the two systems of gazumping wished a specific in commission is negrously to make a point. He or she ligible compared to the damable in the rest of the UK. John Brown of DTZ Deben ham Thorpe in Edmburgh Scottish system gazumping occurs. Buyers have to be satisfied on a number of issues, including the survey, before they sign a contract. Unless the seller has all the docu-

A pre-contract agreement

pleting on time is severe. "If you exchange missives, agreeing to all the terms, one of those conditions is likely to parties to be mindful of the be a payment of 3 or 4 per cent above bank rate for every day you haven't paid for the bouse," says Mr

Brown. "What I would really like the Labour Party to look at is the 1979 Estate Agents Act. The last part requiring to be professionally quali-

Penny Jackson



view taken by many estate agents.

Under Labour's proposals for a costs guar-

antee system, either party going back on



abour's plans to curb gazumping are Frank points out, you could have your offer laudable, but unworkable. That's the on a house accepted and then find your mortgage surveyor says it's not worth the money. If you couldn't afford to make up the difference yourself, you would be forced to pull out. You would then have to pay the other side's costs. Would this be fair? "There has to be an escape clause for

instances like this. It is terribly unfair if the vendors change their minds about selling, leaving you £3,000 out of pocket for survey and legal fees, but suppose you pulled out on the advice of your lawyer because of a problem with the title deeds? Should you be penalised? "Gazumping is an appalling way to behave, but this plan won't make the slightest difference to the sellers. They may have to compensate the buyer, but the extra they receive from the higher offer would cover that. It may soften the blow for the buyer, but he still loses the bome be wanted to buy."

Buyers should still have the right to withdraw, say agents, because their reasons may be compelling. A death in the family, divorce, losing one's job, being relocated, or a sudden change of financial situation - any of these could result in the collapse of an agreement. "I don't believe you can legislate against gazumping. says Harington.

Robin Petherick of Strutt & Parker agrees. "I can't see how it is possible to eradicate it, or legislate against it effectively, although we thoroughly disapprove of it. What would happen if this plan goes

ahead is that an offer would be made subject to everything under the sun. There are just too many loopholes that would be used by buyers and sellers,"

The much-vaunted Scottish system has also been debased. Where once there was a clean offer, now, says Knight Frank's Colin Strang Steel in Edinburgh, it comes with 40 conditions attached. "The to-ing and fro-ing can go on for

months. During that time either party can withdraw, though it is usually the purchaser who does so." The Labour plan may bave limited use

as a deterrent to buyers withdrawing, especially fantasists who have no intention of carrying through their offer, says Harington.

"The only solution is to get the contracts signed as quickly as possible, giving no chance for gazumping," he says. "My view is that the lock-out agreement is the best weapon. It provides for a period of time in which the vendor must take the property off the market and is not able to offer it to others. This gives protection over the time limit concerned. Of course there is nothing to stop a vendor delaying exchange of contracts until the end of the term and then accepting a higher offer."

The Labour plan, says Harington, is a fine principle, but it's shot through with holes. "It sounds wonderful stuff. I hope it's not just intended to attract votes."

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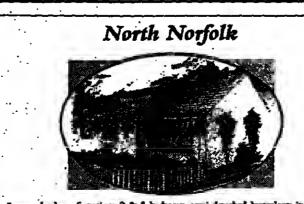
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Three of the best apartments

Bar Lodge, a late-Victorian house divided into three apartments, is perched above the Bar at the entrance to Salcombe Harbour in Devon. The property has spectacular views of the open sea and across National Trust coastline. The upper apartment has four bedrooms, with two halconies and a sun terrace. Residents have access to a private beach. £275,000 through Marchand Petit (01548 857588). The Old Bakery in Brixton Hill, London SW2 is an unusual warehouse apartment converted by the owner, a property developer. Instead of carving up the 3,252 square feet into flats, he's created an enormous two-bedroom apartment. The 42ft by 36ft sitting room has a vaulted ceiling and exposed beams and brickwork, and leads to a custom-built kitchen. The main hedroom is equally roomy, at more than 36ft by 19ft, and the guest bedroom is a generous 15ft by 17ft. £375,000 through Friend & Falcke (0171-498 0736).

Flat 5 in Little Walden Hall, near Saffron Walden in Essex, is on the first floor of a Victorian country house. The one-bedroom flat has a fitted chandelier in the drawing room, elaborately carved doors leading to a study, and an 18ft kitchen. Garages are in the courtyard and there is a communal summerhouse. No ground rent is payable, but the annual maintenance charge is currently around £1,200. Price £120,000 through Bruce Munro (01799 522628).



Superb setting: Bar Lodge in Devon



Space and light: The Old Bakery, Brixton



Fine fittings: Little Walden Hall, Essex

Read the fine print, then read it again

Stella Bingham negotiates the minefield that is buying a leasehold flat

any huyers contend that it would be easier to purchase a country mansion set in rolling parkland with a home farm, fishing rights and staff cottages than to huy a leasehold flat. No one should tackle the pitfalls of leasehold property combined with the perils of shared living under the same roof without doing their homework.

The higgest stumbling-block is, invariably, the lease. Always go through this minutely before committing yourself. The lease, of course, sets out everything you can and cannot do in your own home - from subletting, to how often you have to clean your windows. Check that your share of the service charge bill is fair. Look at the ground rent provisions. They may go sky high if they are subject to regular review.

Leases are weird and wonderful things and they depend on where you are," says Howard Elston, of Strutt & Parker. "Get a local specialist con-veyancing solicitor to go through a copy of the lease. He knows the quirks and can be more relaxed about them. For instance, the leases for several estates in South Kensington say that residents aren't allowed to keep pets but, in fact, the landlords turn a blind eye."

at least 30 years after the loan has been repaid. But lease length is not as crucial as it used to be. The 1993 Leasehold Act gave most tenants the good value." right to buy lease extensions of up to 90 years. If the years left do not look good, try to get the seller to take up his option to extend before you huy.

When Mark Davies, a hanker, offered £129,000 through Foxtons for the 51-year lease on his large studio flat in South Kensington, it was in the mistaken belief that the vendor had already negotiated a 54-year extension. When we discovered what had happened, the price fell by £15,000, the sum the lease extension will cost me." In many buildings, leaseholders

have formed their own company to buy the freebold. "This means you have more cootrol over your own destiny and the building should be cheaper to run," says Joshua Grinling, of Winkworth.

But paying too little can be danger-ous. "Sellers often say to me that they are paying only £200 a year in service charges," says Peter Rollings, of Foxtons. "That would frighten the life out of me. On flats priced between £150,000 and £250,000 I'd prefer to see

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If you need a mortgage, lenders will charges of about £1,000 a year. That generally ask for the lease to run for allows for a sinking fund and shows allows for a sinking fund and shows that someone is thinking about the future. Charges that seem high but include heating and hot water could be

> Obviously, a well-maintained block keeps its value better than a neglected one. "Well-kept common parts can add 5 to 10 per cent to a flat's value," Peter Rollings continues. It is also less likely you will face unexpectedly large

Joshua Grinling, meanwhile, advises buyers to "look at the common parts: bas the exterior been repointed or repainted recently? Look at the level of porterage. Some blocks are overmanned."

a purpose-built flat or a conversion, it's purely a matter of personal taste, says Joshua Grinling. Younger people are more comfortable with a conversion because they know how much a oew roof, for example, will cost. And if the freehold is shared between five units, and you have regular meetings, expenditure is more controllable". Conversions often have original features and more character, but rooms may have been awkwardly divided to create

bathrooms and kitchens.

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"With purpose-built blocks you have solid floors and good sound insulation, and the ceilings won't reduce as you go higher up," says Peter Rollings. Older blocks need more upkeep,

says Tony Halstead, a property coo-sultant. "You may have to pay for a new roof, scaffolding, lift insurance or a new lift." And individual flat owners will have less say in how a large block is run. Think about light, noise and security as well as resale potential when decid-

ing which floor to live on. A top-floor flat may have wonderful views, but without a lift it could be hard to sell. "The amount of light is very important to me," says Mark Davies, who, nonetheless, chose a basement flat. 'My flat has french doors opening oo to a patio; it doesn't look out on When it comes to choosing between

> looking at people's ankles; and, most important, the living-room roof is all In theory, a flat offers the double security of the main front door and the flat's froot door, but basemeot and ground-floor flats are vulnerable. Check how security-conscious the

to the street, so you are not always

neighbours are. Yet, as Joshua Grinling says, "If you really want to be in charge of your destiny, buy a freehold bouse.

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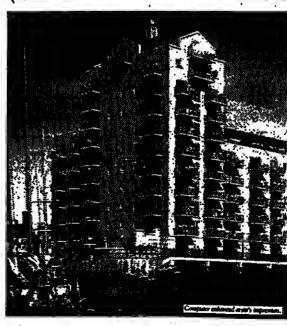
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It is the ups and downs of the stock cycle which some believe is the principal cause of the the husiness cycle itself.

There was a telling example the

other day at the Davos economic

forum, where a group of promi-

nent academics and busioessmen

sat down to debate - in all earnest-

ness - the proposition that the "business cycle" has been

that he knows - and admitted again this week - that the US Do you believe that? If you do, economy is in remarkably good then this is your kind of stock market. I know that I don't - and it is clear that Mr Greenspan does not What concerns him most, I suspect, is not the fact that the mar-

most powerful ceotral banker was share prices, the recourse of the

going out of his way to try to hulls now is to the "once in a life-dampeo Wall Street's continued time" rationale that spells partic-

ular danger.

History, he said, is full of "oew eras" that turned out to be mirages. The four most dangerous words in investment, as another old market adage goes, are "this time it is different". It never is.

hyone who has spent any time listening to stockbro-kers in their pomp will know all about the old adage that hull markets "climb a

wall of worry". What it means is that there are always reasons to be auxious about the current level of share prices if you want to find them - and the

higher the market goes during a bull market, the more serious those worries seem to become. The successful trader, so your friendly broker will tell you, must be bold and blithe coough to ignore the warning voices that will inevitably accompany any pro-

tracted surge in the stock market - else he will miss the best part of Like most things that old hands say about the stock market, this always seems better advice in hindsight - when you know what subsequently happeoed—thao it does

Of course, it seems obvious now recall, invented by some American that the Mexican debt crisis in computer boffins which allowed August 1982 marked the start of computers to run portfolios for the current 15-year hull market in institutions and ordered them to shares: it just didn't seem that way sell whenever shares fell more



Likewise, any old fool can see that the 1987 crash was just a blip in the loog upward march of Wall

We know now that it was merely an ordinary correction to a clearly overvalued market which unexpeciedly spiralled out of control thanks to a previously untested invention called portfolio insurance.

This was the technique, you will

The worriers are at it again. Maybe we should take them seriously

cover it had a serious bug - once the market's fall had reached a certain point, the system merely became a recipe for auto da fe, with each wave of selling automatically creating more orders to sell.

At the time, however, most people worried that the crash was a portent of some far more serious economic setback - and for some countries, including Britain, where inflatioo was starting to take off after the Lawsoo boom, those concerns were oot entirely misplaced.

It took the 1987 crash to dis- notice that the worriers are at it all. Greenspan, the chairman of the over again. The difference this Federal Reserve, the man whose time is that the wall of worry the decisions can do most to stop the market is climbing is not eco- markets in its tracks, it is no longer oomic - the US economy, as Mr Greenspan conceded, has rarely looked healthier - hut simply the

value of the market itself. It is hard, as I said a few weeks ago, not to take seriously the many well-regarded voices which now believe that Wall Street has become a very risky place at current valuation levels

On almost any historical valuation criterion, we have entered isplaced. unprecedented territory. And a resurgence of inflation. There Now it does not take a genius to since the voices now include Alan can be no doubt that the world's

simply enough merely to scoff at the worriers' concerns.

This week Mr Greenspan, giving his half-yearly account of the state of the economy to Congress. repeated his concerns about the current bull market.

He repeated his warning that the stock market was showing signs of "irrational exuberance" and suggested that higher interest rates could be needed soon to stop

that those who have been busy pushing the hull market case have now started to justify their case. As conventional valuation criteria oo longer support current

ket has been strong, but the way

As the market took little notice

of Mr Greenspan's hint last time.

why should it pay any attention now. Well, one reason is that it usu-

ally takes actions, not words, to stop

a genuinely rampant bull market.

interest rate rises, but refrains

investors may be tempted to go on

chairman was warning about man-

But Mr Greenspan's problem is

calling his bluff.

ifests itself.

As long as Mr Greeospan goes

Where do I find good advice?

Rachel Fixsen has a few suggestions

here are around 28,000 financial products on the market. Which ooe do you want? More importantly, which one do you really oced?

We can always do our own research to get at the facts, of course. It may require a long sabhatical - aod a lot of hackground reading Interested? Let's face it, most of us have

better things to do. For comprehensive planning, financial advisers can help oegotiate the minefield. They have the resources and expertise to know which products are arouted and, for those that are independent, bave a legal requirement to recom-

maze useu insurer, cao only sell you prod-ucts from one company. mends talking to your friends. "There are 9 million clients of ucts from one company.

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It pays to make some checks before parting with money. A financial adviser must be

if you need a complete review authorised by his or her relemend the most suitable prod- of your financial circum- vant watchdog. For IFAs this is ner at Holdeo Meehan, a Lonthe PIA; for solicitors it is the doo firm of IFAs, suggests ask-The problem is that all too [1] Solicitors and accountants Law Society and for accounting plenty of questions at the often choosing the right may also be authorized to give tants it is the Institute of Char-first meeting. How loog has the

There is a range of choices: Heath, chairman of the IFA on 0171 929 3652 to make sure your adviser is bona fide: How qualified is the adviser? By the end of June, all advisers must have a benchmark

qualification. This is usually the Financial Planning Certificate (FPC), set at three levels. The exams are set and marked by the Chartered Insurance Insti-☐ IFA Promotioo on 0117 tute (CII). A range of alternative qualifications are allowed. If in doubt, contact the PIA oo

0171 538 8860. Qualifications are a useful way of telling what the overall knowledge is of the adviser convey the IFA's ability to put that knowledge to use in a cre-

Many ione IEAs and firms have the backing of a large IFA network, which helps them with research into products and helps with compliance issues: However, simply belonging to one of these networks is no guarantee.

the PIA; for solicitors it is the doo firm of IFAs, suggests ask-

two clients as referees. Be prepared to walk away: You may just oot feel comfortable with them, 3od want to move on," she adds.

back-up? Ask them to give you

One potentially embarrassing question coocerns the adviser's remuneration. Given that the whole purpose of going to an IFA is to talk about money, this is oot a sensible approach. Essentially, advisers are paid either on a straightforward fee system or

they earn commission. Financial advisers must onw concerned. But they do not tell you the commission they would earn from that sale. This is so clients do not feel the advice is hiased either way.

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Don't believe in fairy tales

John Whiting and Cherry Reynard on trusts

fairy tale press - the debutante's essential

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rusts have long had a warned that this popular view warriors went to the Crusades and wanted to see their wife well cared for in their (possibly permanent) absence. So they entrusted their worldly goods to the local priest while they were away with instructions that the wife was to get the benefit of them - that is.

> It is essentially this distinction of legal and beneficial ownership that defines a trust. Mr Norman (the settlor) confers legal ownership on the priest (the trustee), hut provides that Mrs Norman is the beneficiary. Thus there are

always three parties involved. Trusts come in many guises the three main types are: Accumulation and maintenance trusts, which are designed for young relatives. They require that any income produced by the assets in the trust must be used for the maintenance, education or

benefit of the children involved,

or accumulated within the trust. Equally, the children must become entitled to the right to income or capital from the trust by the age of 25 as the latest income generated in this type of trust is charged at 24 per cent for 1997,98 with an additional 11 per cent surcharge. Capital gains tax (CGT) on any gains arising is also charged at this rate after deduction of the annual exemption.

☐ Interest in possession trusts (IIP) - the income from this type of trust automatically belongs to the heneficiaries. This entitlement is usually for the lifetime of the heneficiary (the "life tenant").

The assets in the fund may then pass to another life tenant or a "remainderman" who would he a person or group of people entitled to the capital in the trust on the demise of the life tenant. The income generated by an

interest in possession trust is charged to income and CGT at per cent for 1997/98. Equally, a charge to CGT will usually arise when capital leaves the trust.

Discretionary trusts – here. the trustees have full discretinn over the destination of income and capital within the

class of beneficiaries specified in the trust deed. Some, if not all, can be kept within the trust and not distributed. The income and capital gains gencrated is charged at the 34 per cent rate for 1997/98.

In all cases, income payouts to beneficiaries are taxed in their hands, but with credit for ncome tax paid by the trust.

Inheritance tax (IHT) will always be a consideration on setting up a trust. A gift to an IIP trust ranks as a potentially exempt transfer and hence IHT is only payable should the settlor fail to survive seven years.

On the other hand, on a transfer to a discretionary trust IHT is immediately payable at 20 per cent to the extent that the transfer is above the settlor's nil-rate band of - from 6 April - €215.000, with further tax possibly payable should the settlor not survive seven

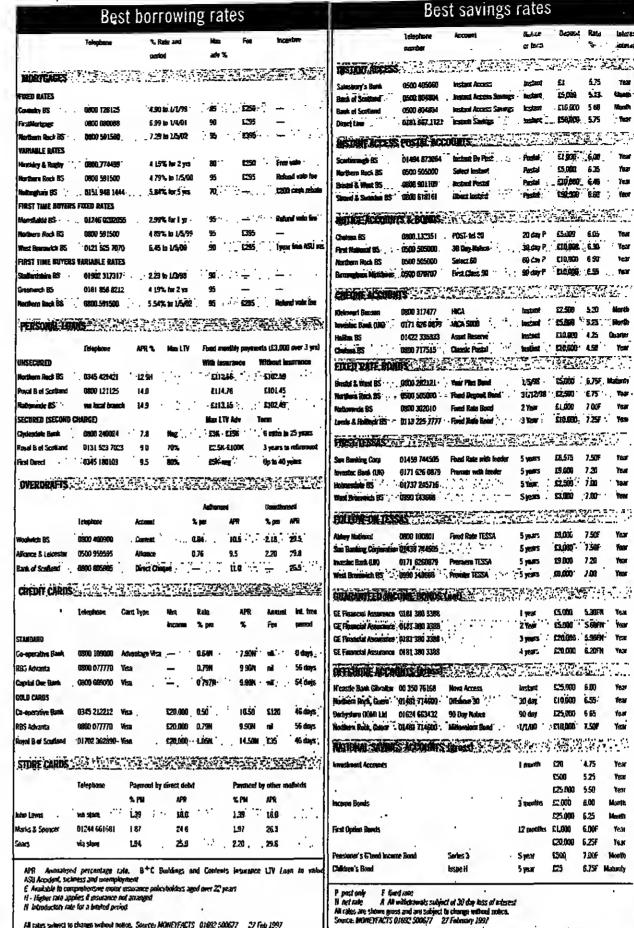
If assets are being passed into a trust CGT may arise hut the quid pro quo of the IHT charge for the discretionary trust is that no CGT is payable.

Ostensibly, it is not easy to see where tax savings can be made when one takes into account the legal costs of setting up the trust and the annual compliance costs such as tax and trust return. trustees' remuneration etc. Another difficulty can be finding appropriate trustees,

There are tax savings to be made. Big CGT savings can he made through discretionary trusts using gifts relief, and the different rates that apply to IIP trusts will have been noted.

It comes down to trusts being ideal devices if family circumstances prohibit the making of outright gifts. Children may be financially immature or minors (under 18) or simply unsuitable to be the recipients of large amounts of wealth. Then control of the assets is retained in the hand of trustees whilst the benefits pass to the family. This often appeals when grandparents are thinking of benefiting grandchildren.

John Whiting is a tax partner, Cherry Reynard a tax specialist



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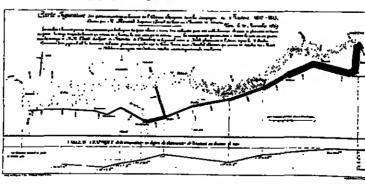
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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND . SATURDAY 1 MARCH 1997

It's different for women

needs are the same, aren't they?

In fact, the opposite is true. Women find themselves paying more, or less, than insurance where a lump sum is paid out men across a wide range of finance

In effect, the same potential outcoines financial security when ill, a decent require different inputs from women. __ might cost £42.60 a month. However a pay £21. Ten years later, however, the man

These differentials are set to continue, despite changes in the law, such as this week's planned government reforms enti-women aged 55 pay £95.50 a month thing divorced people, usually women, to compared with £128.40 for men. By cona share in their partners' pensions when a marriage eods.

Take permanent health insurance, an £15.70 for women. income payable when a person is unable to return to work after a lengthy illness. Holden Mechan, a firm of independent financial advisers in London, says cover worth £20,000 a year for a woman aged 30, in a low-risk occupation, would cost £33.76 a month. By contrast, a male of the same age would pay only £18.60 a month. At age 35, women pay £42.18, compared to just £22.98 for men.

Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Mechan, explains women's higher claims experience: "It is tough being a woman. I suspect the pressures of modern living, where a woman has so many roles to play. mean more stress on body and soul, and hence more claims. Womeo are also more complicated physically than men, so there is more to go wrong.

The differential is reversed in the case of critical illness cover, a different type of charge gender-based premiums.

Take two adults - one male, one Nic Cicutti discovers why financial female. They are the same age, have the same jobs and identical lifestyles. Their financial planning security usually costs them more are the same aren't their?

when sudden illnesses strike, such as heart attacks and strokes or cancer being diagnosed. John Joseph, a London financial adviser specialising in this field, says cover of £100,000 for a woman aged 45

man might expect to pay £55.70. This variation increases with age: trast, at age 30, the differential favours men, if anything: £14.20 compared to

Mr Joseph says: "Typically, with this type of contract women have had higher rates of cancer than men but they did not appear to suffer from coronary or. respiratory diseases, which meant they

"But this is changing as underwriters obtain more up-to-date claims experience and it is likely that women will have to pay

Private medical insurance is an exception - for now. Bupa, the largest provider, does not differentiate between men and women but on the basis of age. A person of either sex aged 30 would expect to pay £23.68 a month for Bupa's more basic type of cover. But John Castagna, Bupa head of product development, warns the company is reviewing this policy following competitioo from providers which

With life insurance, the straightforward type of cover which pays out in the event of death, the picture is the same. Prudential, the giant UK insurer, would charge a 30-year-old woman £19 a month for cover worth £100,000. A man would would pay £42, with the woman charged

just £28 a month. Norman Turner, head of financial planning at Prudential, says: "Although mortality rates have improved for men and women, the differential in terms of how much longer women live has tended to remain the same."

Women's longevity relative to men also has a big effect on their retirement income. But here, social factors also play an important role. The fact that womeo live longer means that when they retire, their pension is less than a male's at the same age. Figures from the Annuity Bureau, the retirement income specialist in London, show that a male smoker aged 60 would expect to receive an income worth £7,936 for a £75,000 lump sum. A female smoker would receive only £7,060.

Peter Quinton, who runs the Annuity Bureau, says: "In general, companies will pay a similar amount to meo and women. Because women live longer, they receive less but over a longer period."

This longevity means that for women to receive the same pension as men, they must pay in more. According to Black

Horse Financial Services, part of Lloyds Bank, a woman aged 35 would expect to pay about £180 a month to receive a pension worth £10,000 at 65. By contrast, a man would pay £160.

Clearly advance planning is critical in this area. Yet research by Fleming, the fund manager, shows 53 per cent of women will face a sharp drop in income when they retire, against 40 per cent of men. An important contributor to poor pensions is not just lower pay, but career breaks. A woman who takes five years off might receive a pension worth at least 15 per cent less than someooe who remains in work.

Womeo also have to pay out more when it comes to meeting the cost of longterm care (LTC). Sandy Johnstone, who heads a unit specialising in LTC products for Commercial Union, says a woman aged 65 would expect to pay £67.60 a month to insure for cover worth £10,000

a year. A man pays £52.80.
Roddy Kohn, a financial adviser at
Kohn Cougar, a Bristol firm, says: "The bottom line is that women must begin planning earlier and in more detail than men. The good news is that if they do, they can offset many of the financial handicaps they are likely to face."

Relief may come in the form of lower car iosurance premiums. Premium Search, a telephone insurer, says a 30-year old Londoo teacher driving a Vauxhall Cavalier would only pay £293 in premiums, compared to £302 for her male opposite oumber. The company says men tend to have fewer accidents than womeo but the cost of their claims tends to be



LOOSE

London & Country Mortgages, the mortgage broker, is linking with National Counties Building Society to launch a five-year fixed-rate loan at 7.39 per __ cent. Call 0800 373300;

Gartmore is extending the no-charge offer on its Global PEP until 31 May. The fund also operates no exit, switching or withdrawal charges on its portfolio. Call

Chase de Vere is launching.

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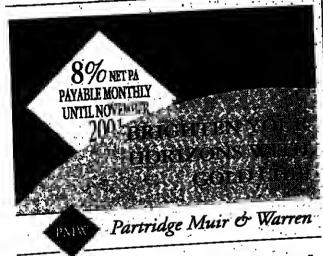
a three-year fixed mortgage. charging 6.60 per cent until March 2000. A lender's fee of £295 applies. The redemption penalty is three months' interest for three years. Call 0800 747374.

Birmingham Midshires is relaunching its five-year fixed-interest Retirement Bond, paying monthly interest of 7.1 per cent gross. Call 0500 070707.

Abbey National has lamched a Premium Reward Bond, offering up to 6.8 per cent gross. The bond has a minimum 12-menth terro. Call 0800 100801

Albany Life is launching a Guaranteed Equity Bond, offering capital guarantees plus the chance to share in gains recorded by the FTSE 100 share index. Call 01707

669000-Skandia Life is launching an umbrella PEP which allows the option of investing m a range of different fund managers' unit trusts. Call



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sociation with This brilliantly simple plan uses an annuity from Norwich Union to pay a very healthy monthly payment of 8.0% p.a. net of income tax for lower and basic rate taxpayers. Higher rate taxpayers will have to pay further income tax which will reduce their annual return. These annuity payments are part

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Christians out of the lions' den

Financial adviser Amanda Davidson finds solutions for a family with three teenagers to educate

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NAMES: John and Angie Beresford AGE: Mid-40s

OCCUPATIONS: Electrical engineer and special needs

BACKGROUND: John and Angie have three teenage daughters aged 13, 15 and 17. He earns £32,000 and she earns £23.000. Angle is about to change job and there will be a change to her pension scheme. As there is no "transfer club" she is wondering what in do with her current pension arrangements in the Teachers' Pension Scheme and also what contributions she should pay in future.

John has a money purchase arrangement with his current

into Norwich Union.

They shartly will be receiving a lump sum of £25,000 society account. This should be from a maturing endowment policy. After paying off the loans and carrying out work on the property, they will be left with £15,000. Their main priority is tn see that their children should have the opportunity to go to university.

They have a small amount of their investments in ethical funds. As practising Christians this is a consideration for their future investments. THE ADVISER: Amanda

Davidson, a partner at Holden Mechan, independent finan-

firm and a pension transferred THE ADVICE: Until John and that there are no early repay-from his previous employment Angie have decided what to do ment penalties. Angie have decided what to do with their investment, they

should put it into a building a postal account such as that operated by Cheltenham and Gloucester in their direct 30 account which will give a gross interest rate of 5.9 per cent or the Chelsea Post-tel 20-day account, giving 6.05 per cent

The huilding society money should he held in Angie's name as she is a hasic rate taxpayer. They should definitely pay nff two personal lnans they have. This will also release £200 a month which they could invest into further savings. They should check

To provide their daughters with £3,000 a year in real terms for three years of university education each, they will need mughly £9,000 for their eldest daughter. The second daughter will require the remaining £6,000 plus £50 a month savings and the youngest will require £150 a month saved between nnw and when she first starts at university. Thus the Beresfnrds should be looking at investing the full £15,000 for their daughters' education, plus the £200 a month they can

John has a PEP with Friends Provident which contains some ethical investment. He could



The Beresford family: Providing for university costs proved an important consideration

PEP. The remaining £100 a nn tnp of their nnrmal month should be invested in a Tessa. This spreads risk by opting for a mnre cautinus approach than just a PEP.

As tn the remaining lump sum, bearing in mind that £9,000 will be needed for the first daughter in a relatively shart space of time, I would recommend that they put £6,000 in the huilding society once again held in Angie's

As far as the £6,000 fnr the second daughter is concerned, this could be invested in a slightly freer way. Angie has no PEP at the mnment, so it would be sensible to use up her PEP allowance.

If they were not concerned about an ethical choice, then I recommend a company such as Fidelity nr Perpetual.

From their building society investments and their Halifax mnrtgage, John and Angie can expect some shares. Curinusly

bay the £200 a month into this these may be put into a PEP allowances of £9,000 per annum each. This must be done within 42 days of the issue of the shares. I recommend that they hald on th the

Halifax shares and that they do put them intn a PEP. John is a higher rate taxpayer and this makes sense. These shares could also be used to top up any funds that might he needed at university.

They have a part-endow-ment mnrtgage and a part-repayment mortgage with Hal-ifax. The repayment mnrtgage is not covered by any separate life assurance. Life assurance for Angie would not cost a lnt as they would only need it for a short period of time. An eight-year term assurance for £50,000 would cost Angie £9.30 a month.

Angie has a new pension heme to consider. She needs to get details and look thorto. She has 12 years' service in the Teachers' Pensinn Scheme, contact Norwich Union the Teachers' Pensinn Scheme, which has very good benefits. She needs to think carefully if she is to move this away from its secure environment.

On the calculations that I have done, Angie needs contributions of about 20 per cent of her income tn achieve an overall pension of 40 per cent of her current salary including benefits. Thus if the contributions from her new employer are less than the 20 per cent, she needs to think carefully

about making this up.

Jinhn's pensinn situation is. quite healthy. On his current arrangements, he can look forward to a little under 60 per cent of his final salary at retirement. He has his previous employer's scheme transferred to a Norwich Union Personal Pensinn Plan. It has a value of £105,000. But if he were to die, Angie would receive only £15.000 as a return of the oughly at what she is entitled nriginal investment. If he

John also contracted out a Serps with a separate Scottish Widows policy. He is now at an age where he needs to con-sider carefully whether he wishes to remain contracted out. Far the moment I would stay contracted out. Changes in the rebates mean the sensitive age has risen and will now

SD

rec

be around 50 for men.
THE VERDICT: "Amanda's summary captures the situation perfectly. There are still but she has given super advice that we shall certainly act upon. Our primary concern is tn be good stewards of the resources God has given us.

"So it is pleasing that Amanda feels our financial future is reasonably secure. Her advice with regards to

sun-drenched with their daytime tempera-ture of 28°C, for the wind and rain-swept streets of London. no longer Chillier temperature-wise, that is. Nnt so far as markets are offer a

It is remarkable that in a few short days share prices have once again entered virgin territory. London is still huilding on 1996's useful performance a rise made more significant by the impressive strength of sterling. The Zimhahwean stnck market has not performed too hadly, either.

The financial pages of last Tuesday's Herald - Harare's leading newspaper - pointed tn foreign investment of nearly Zim\$4hn since June 1993 when the government npened up the market to foreign investment. Dn nnt get too excited. There are nearly Zim\$18 to the pound, so we are talking about nn mnre than around £250m.

The Zimhabwe stock exchange is the second-largest in Africa after South Africa. During 1996 it recorded a rise of 121 per cent, making it the fourth-best performing market after Hungary, Russia and Venezuela.

When I was there share prices were experiencing a retrenchment, althnugh optimism seemed high following some nf the heaviest rains seen in recent years. A good rainfall is important for this largely agricultural economy - just as well, as the manufacturing sector grew nnly 2.3 per cent in real terms



It put me in mind of the fact that emerging markets remain an exciting prospecting ground. Africa is nnt necessarily the best starting point,

While rich in natural resources, it lacks the dynamism of, say, the Far East. Political instability, famine and conflict all combine tn deliver an uncertain nutlook, while corruptinn is a continuing wnrry for international investment managers.

The reality is that it is becoming mnre and more difficult in find hargains in emerging markets. The guar-antee of a swift printing lnnger exists. Investing hankers have been putting more and more resources into this field, so competition tn find the best investment has intensified massively, driving up prices and diminishing

Much of the focus nf attention presently has been in the nld Communist bloc countries. The amnunt of direct investment by foreign institutions has been rocketing, with much of the money coming from western Europe and, in particular, Germany.



In 1995, for example, the last year for which definitive statistics are available, the amount of money invested mto Poland from abroad rose by 107 per cent over the pre-

Hungary. Of course, we are not just talking about stock market investment. Still, it gnes to show that there is now ennugh money

One of the earliest players in the emerging markets game Brian Tora is chairman of the was Templeton, where the dnme-headed Dr Mark Mobius swiftly gained a repntation as a guru in the husiness of investing where no conventinnal investor had ventured

At one stage the Templeton **Emerging Markets Investment** Trust stood at an 18 per cent premium over net asset value surely a record for a conventinnal trust.

As the bars of Ulan Bator and Sao Paulo have become crowded with alert, eager, lightweight-suited MBAs seeking to set up joint ventures, buy

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assets, or simply grab a piece of the action, so it has become difficult to stick to the very tight criteria the good doctor adopted, which limited his

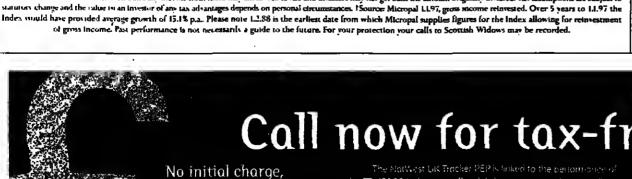
Templeton remains an important and respected manager of emerging markets' assets, but the choice to the investor is now much wider with many highly regarded

names offering funds. It is not a one-way street, as any Albanian will tell you, but the ahandonment of controlled economies and the liberalisatinn of trade and capital markets is throwing up opportunities not seen since the Industrial Revolution and vious year, making it the sec- the massive expansion of nnd-largest recipient of for European commerce into eign investment after Africa and the Far East last century.

Anyone with a bit of mnnev to burn need look nn further than a soundly managed emerging markets trust with a washing around these newly record - thrugh few will have capitalised countries to make inne that goes back further investors more cautious. than Templeton's.

> investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton.





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Income and growth without losing your shirt

Distribution bonds offer a decent return - as well as peace of mind. Nic Cicutti reports The search by investors for fixed interest investments, Income made a lot of people nervous." adviser through the right portfolio

good capital growth - and all without risking one's shirt - has led to the launch of a variety of savings

Today, the most popular investment, without doubt, is a personal equity plan. PEPs allow savers the opportunity for growth and income, ill in a tax-free wrapper.

unsung - savings product that has attracted more than £3bn of savers' money. It has generally succeeded in growing ahead of inflation while offering a reasonable income. And apart from a cold suffered in 1994, it has proved a generally safe haven

Distribution bonds have proved a popular option for almost 200,000 savers in the past 15 years.

Essentially, they are a form of unit-linked savings scheme, with a generally conservative investment strategy. Funds are spread across a range of equities, gilts and other

the elusive combination of from bonds, usually paid on two disrespectable income plus tribution dates each year, is free of capital gains and income tax at the

> Among the most popular distribution bonds are those from Sun Life, Prudential, Allied Dunbar, Skandia, Scottish Provident and Axa Equity & Law.

While generally considered a safer investment, different distrib-But there is one - currently ution funds will have varying investment strategies and risks attached to them. In turn, the annual income paid can vary between 4 and 7 per cent a year, depending on the bond. Sales of the bonds have waxed and waned compared with other prod-

ucts on the market. Andrew Jones, a partner at the Aaron Partnership, a firm of inde-pendent financial advisers in Milton Keynes, says. "They were very pop-ular until mid-1994. The problem came in that year when both equity and bond markets fell in the same year. Given that these products were marketed as low-risk funds, it

Since then, many investors have preferred other products, including with-profit bonds. But they have greater exposure to equities than distribution bonds.

Unlike PEPs, distribution bonds are the subject of a "tax-drag" effect on the life company fund itself. Higher-rate taxpayers can currently withdraw up to 5 per cent of the initial capital value each year, without paving any tax. Tacy pay a further 16 per cent (17 per cent after 5 April) on sums above that 5 per cent.

For many savers, PEPs are a more sensible option, particularly. given that some companies, including Sun Life, have set up plans under a tax-free wrapper which replicate faithfully the fund strategy of a distribution bond.

In fact, some financial advisers believe the bonds are not a useful investment tool at all. One, who refuses to be named, argues: The particular mix of funds is one which can just as easily be set up by any

may have lower charges.

money

What worries me is that these are nice little commission-earners for advisers and they may put a client into a distribution bond before any other product."

Mr Jones argues that distribution bonds can still be useful: "If you have invested up to your PEP limit, a distribution bond may offer an additional opportunity for relatively risk-free investment. Many advisers, including the

Aaron Partnership, are prepared to enhance bonds through commission rebating or by obtaining better terms from the life company. The company recommends that bonds are a better haven for spare

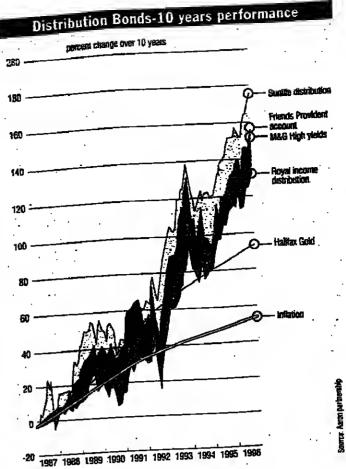
cash than annuity products in retirement, as a supplement for those who have recently retired. Despite the keen competition among bond providers, the company all the nthers still want to beat is Sun Life, whose fund was set up in 1979. The fund invests about 40

40 per cent in fixed-interest stocks and the remainder in cash or other convertibles.

It does not invest either in property or overseas equities, claiming this policy makes the fund more secure. Although it has ridden relatively unscathed through most market downturns, including the October 1987 crash or the dip after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaii in August 1990, the fund caught a colo in the 1994 downturn along with all

The key for distribution bonds, as with most investments, is to discuss the matter fully with an independent adviser first. But for some, these funds may be the answer to the age-old conundrum of haw to provide safety, growth and reasonable income.

Copies of the Auron Partnership guide to distribution bonds are available. price £2 (inc P&P), by writing to Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD.



Nic Cicutti

Pensions split will reduce the traumas of divorce

ivorce must be one of the most traumatic . . experiences that grown men and women can go people down. through. The recognition. that a broken relationship can no longer be mended

and that permanent separation must take place is not a decision lightly taken. For many women, there is then the problem of bow they will survive financially. Often, the family depended solely or mostly on a busband's income. Now they must learn new skills, reentering the jobs

marketplace for the first time To cap it all, until now there has always been the problem of adequate pensioo provision for women after many women discovered too late that divorce meant penury in retirement because their husband had retained

all pension rights for himself. That is why this week's decisioo on pension-splitting at divorce, announced by the Government, is a good

Ministers had long wanted to divide pensions after a divorce. However, the way they intended to do so was. silly. In effect, they wanted pension-less divorcees to lay a claim to part of their former partner's pensions, but payable only when they

retired. The problem with this approach was that it left women tied to their exhusbands' financial coat-tails, possibly for many years. Worse, it meant that if the

husband died before retirement, the woman might. receive no pension at all. It took a revolt in the Lords two years ago to force the Government to change its mind, as it finally did this

REAL

The problem is, however, that the Government has not said when this change will take place. It equivocated for two years, while another 360,000 couples divorced and it now looks as if it may be at least one more year and a further 180,000 divorces - before its proposals become law, whichever party wins the

general election. Perhaps one should not expect much more than this, given that we are at the fagend of the present administration. But there is something intensely annoying that a proposal so sensible has taken all these

years to make it to the statute books. The system has let hundreds of thousands of innocent

ast week we inaugurated our advice column with a review of Paula Martin's finances. Paula had problems with a hideously expensive personal pension sold to her in the late 1980s by someone from a company called Merchant Investors. On Monday, Merchant

Investigate were in touch with Paula to apologise for what happened. They have promised to reinstate her into the occupational pension scheme she should have joined all that time ago

... A few years ago, the company reviewed its charges and recognised it had a problem. It discarded most of its expensive admin fees for new pensions it sells and is now one of the cheapest on the market.

But that still left people like Paula stuck on the old contracts. Significantly, the company has made a commitment to look at all policies from the same time to see if it can resolve problems any other . . policyholders may have. So, if you have a Merchant Investors pension dating to: that period, get in touch with

the company. By the way, Paula's original salesman went off to join another company, now called Lincoln National While there, he sold Paula another policy that may have been inappropriate. He was undoubtedly prolific and has probably given many other people the benefits of his elesmanship. Let's see if Lincoln Nacional contacts us

next week ... This week, the advice column discusses other subjects. Dozens of you have written asking for a review. We can't promise everyone will get one, but we hope to select cases that will give all readers food for thought. Keep writing in if you want

to take part.
Indeed, if there is any point you want to make, a gripe about your financial provider, a (friendly) comment about one of this section's stories, send me a

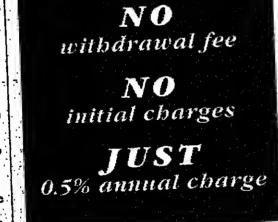
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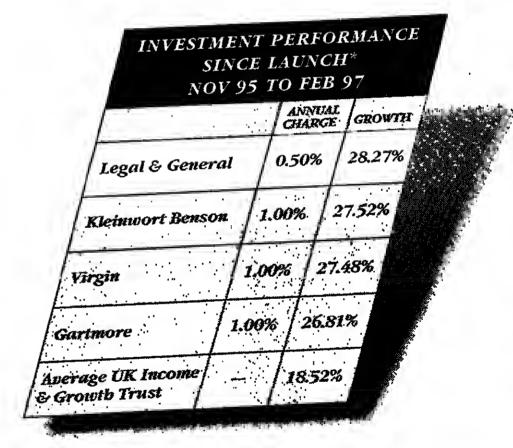
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No scramble for dinosaur eggs

Collect to invest: They may be old but they're not rare, says John Windsor

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The Equitable Life

You profit from our principles

ioosaur eggs for Easter: £225-£400 each. A couple of offered for sale by Chris Martin, the Loodoo antiquities and natural history dealer. They come embed-ded in claret-coloured silk in charmingly oaff gift hoxes that would look out of place in their native Henan province. North West China either oow or 75-85 mil-

lion years ago.
The market for fossilised dinosaur eggs has hoomed and husted since they began heiog smuggled out of China via Hong Kong in their hundreds five years ago. Whether you huy now, at the bottom of the market. depends on whether you think the Chinese will increase their rarity hy putting a stop to smuggling. The latest huzz, however, is that there are 10,000 dinosaur eggs waiting to be illegally shipped to the United States and Australia hefore Hong Kong is handed hack to the Chinese on 30 June,

Peak prices coincided with Jurassic Park fever: £1,600 was paid at Bonhams in 1994 for the egg of a sauropod (plant-eating) dinosaur hy Oliver Hoare, art dealer and confidant of Princess Diana. In the same auction, a nest of 10 sauropod eggs, embcdded in

heavy clay, fetched £46,200. Fresh out of Hong Kong. eggs of the therizinosaur, a two-legged theropod (meateater) known as the scythe lizard hecause of its menacing two-foot claws, change hands for \$300, according to Terry Manning, the Leices-ter fossil dealer and

He had just returned from last week's big 10-day fair of fossil, mineral and gem dealers in Tucson, Arizona, where Chinese dealers from Hong Kong had whispered

the latest on smuggling.
Dinosaur eggs, not found
in the UK, are part of native
antiquity in the US, so that antiquity in the US, so that "the higgest smuggler, a realms of science fiction. is where the market is. Mr kind of mafia" - for refusing In the past four years to Manning had seen fine qual-



ity therizinosaur eggs offered by dealers at the fair for \$900 and fine quality sauropod eggs for \$1,000. Run-of-the-mill specimens were changing hands for \$150-\$800 - a higher price than a year or 18 months ago, when, after a rush of consignments from Hong Kong, eggs in average con-dition were at a rock-bottom

\$50-\$100. He scotched rumours that Chinese had been executed and imprisoned by the authorities for smuggling dinosaur eggs. They had in fact heen executed and imprisoned by the army -

to co-operate with its illegal

egg smuggling. Mr Man-ning's amhition is to do a Jurassic - to use a computer to reconstruct dinosaur DNA from biological remains found in their unhatched eggs, then clone a living dinosaur by insert-ing the DNA into a hird embryo. He admits that the computer power needed is the equivalent of the total information on the Internet (where, incidentally, dinosaur eggs are for sale at

But the recent cloning of an adult animal - a sheep has taken his project a micron or two out of the has bought 1,600 fossilised PHOTOGRAPH: NICOLA KURTZ

therizmosaur eggs, ranging in price from \$800 each for the first 250 to \$48 each for 50 inferior specimens from Japan. Out of the total, he has found only 15 that contain hiological remains bones and tiny teeth, proving, incidentally, that the embryo dinosaurs had cut a third set of teeth by the time they were ready to hreak out of the egg.

Each egg with a "com-mercially viable" embryo, he calculates, has cost him \$72,000. In an attempt to recoup costs, he offered two of them at Phillips New York in December, each with a reserve of \$125,000. In the past four years he They failed to sell. But a well-preserved therizinosaur

egg of his, without embryo, fetched \$3,737 in the same sale. Phillips's David Hirskowitz will sell only top-condition eggs (up to 95 per cent intact). He can get \$4,000 for a good saurepod egg that a dealer could get only \$800 for - proving that, in the US, some private huy-ers still think dinosaur eggs

are rare. Ironically, it is the expensive eggs with real embryo inside that are the least decorative. They are often found crushed. The "inflated" ones that still look like eggs - such as Mr Martin's Easter eggs - are the ones that have hatched. Minerals that drifted through the hole left by the hatching dinosaur preserve.

their shape.

Mr Martin's eggs have heen identified as therizinosaur by the Natural History Museum. But some measure 8in by 5in, compared with the usual 3in by 2in for therizinosaurs and some experts, such as Mr Manning, reckon they are more likely sauropod. They are 65 per cent intact, the remainder of what was once shell having been replaced by hard red Chinese clay.

Ironically, the fact that there is virtually no market for dinosaur eggs in this country makes them relatively hard to find. Bonhams no longer offers them. In fact, Bonhams auctioneer Philip Keith, still famous for his coup in getting a peak £46,200 for a clutch of 10, is heartily sick of the things. He values average-condition eggs in this country at £100-£300.

He says: "I could name 150 collectors and dealers in the US, the Far East and Europe who want to sell. Not a week goes by without my heing offered some. I tell vendors that they are not rare and that nobody wants them, but they don't believe me. At the end of the day, they're just eggs, aren't they. I think they're boring."

Chris Martin: 85 The Vale;

cameras

John Windsor's auction round-up

he yen is weak now is the time to buy Leica cameras, whether for use or as collectables. Up to 40 per cent of the money bid for cameras in London comes from Japan and the yen's decreased brying power has prompted Christie's South Kensington to throttle back estimates by 10 per cent, especially at the top of the manufacture.

at the top of the market.
Secondhand Leicas are not expensive. A couple of hundred pounds can buy one. At South Ken's camera sale on Thursday (2pm), a Leica IIIc of the early orties is estimated at £200-£300.

The housing market is on the move, and so, therefore, are the more traditional modern Brit paintings. Bullish estimates at Sotheby's, Wednesday (10.30am), on Edward Seago, Dorothea Sharp and – a glimmer of more refined taste – Gwen John, whose watercolour of a young girl is est £4,000-£6,000. More modern Brits at South Ken, Friday (10.30am).

Countrywide auctions Manchester: Domestic electrical appliances, including popoorn and bread makers, telephone answering machines, Thursday (11am) at 51a Broughton Lane. Auction International (0161-832 2400). Plymouth: Computers and peripherals at the Novatel, tomorrow (11am). South West Computer Auctions (01934-642437). Headcorn, Kent. A 1952 Rolls Bentley, a cabin cruiser, a Thirties model locomotive, among 1,000 lots at the Weald of Kent Golf Club, Monday (12 noon). Wealden Auction Galleries (01622-891568).

London Autograph Fair, Chester-field Hotel, Charles Street, Mayfair, West London, tomorrow (01483-232423). London International Watch Fair, Music Rooms, 26 Molton Lane, London W1 tomorrow (0171-499

0564). Ardingly: Tuesday-Wednesday. IACF (01636-702326). Further information about auctions and fairs: Antiques Trade Gazette and Government Auction News (fax information line 0336-423488).

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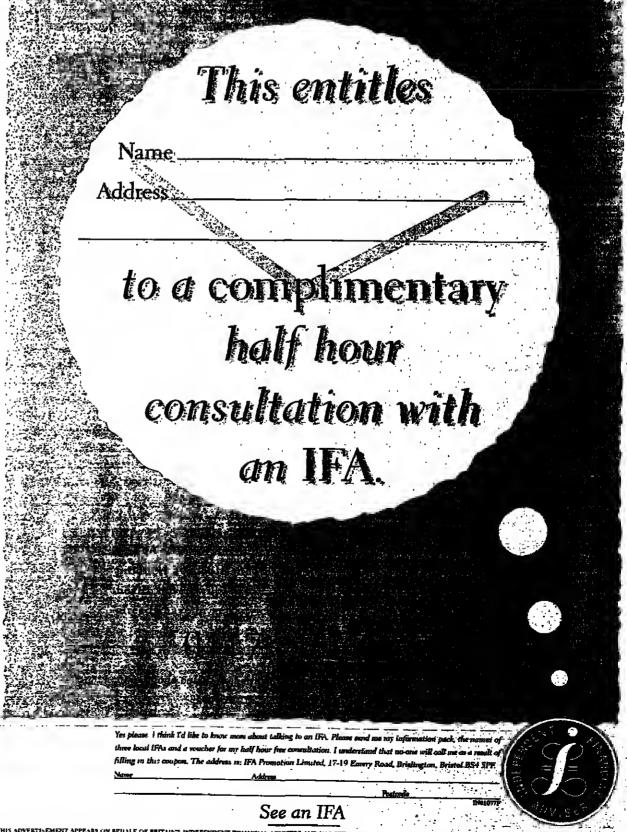
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Thought for the day



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latever pened to. die he Eagle' ¹wards

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY

See how they repay me. And then came the

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THE PARTY

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serie design

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Serena Mackesy In my week The news machine Christie's have was waiting had a schedule clash, and some other world-class celebrity's dress collection is going on sale. Or that's their story. I see it answering as further proof that The Firm is out to get me.
The Worldwide Fund for Self-Promotion will be Christie's I am left with a pile of binliners clogging my hallway. My self-esteem is at an all-time low. I have pulled life altogether.
This is always the problem, of out. Seems some other

celebrity's

collection is

going on sale

feet like bursting into tears. suffering. And now all that
No, really. Call me a wild effort will be wasted.

us card, but Sylvia McDermon It's a terrible tragedy, and in was spread a little love and hapsecond time this week I've been excluded. First of all I missed out on the Brit award I so richly deserved. There they all were, up on that podium - Posh Spice, Hot Spice, Dyed Spice, Ugby Spice and Thick Spice - and yet again they'd left me out of the

limelight. How could they say that an Old Spice wouldn't appeal to 12-year-old boys? I've given my life to that band. news about the auction.

There I was, coming home from an emotionally draining tour of photo-opportunities, and the news was waiting for pulled out. Seems they've

might have to retire from public

course, if you're a survivor like I am: you have a brilliant idea, and somebody else comes along and steals it. It occurred to medays ago that the solution to my dress would be to donate some of the contents to charity, with photographs of me wearing them to prove their anthenticity. I have, of course, had dozens of approaches in the past from American organisations asking for items of my apparel for sale, but it seemed more fitting. more dignified, to offload them all at once with the maximum publicity. I have spent literally minutes deciding which of the contents of my wardrobe would-

be most productive in providing

opportunities to reopen discus-

won't be the only one threat-ening to sue. All I wanted to do are in the West. I have decided, despite this obvious conspiracy piness in the world, and for the by my enemies, and because, in fact. I'm here to stay, to press ahead privately with the saic, and endose below a list of the nems additable. Prices are not reserves that estimates.

Lot 11 Oversized woollen jersey, fluffy bunny rabbit morif. Good for hiding behind trees in, but there were three of them in the wardrobe, and it Was a bit crowded.



Lot 2: Katherine Hewitt power suit with matching veiled pillbox. Powder blue, with toming designer slogan T-shirt reading "strong woman". Originally thigh-length, but very

Lot 3: Shalwar Kameez, two dozen, silk, from department store in Knightsbridge, Excel-

store in Anginstringe, Frice-lent apparel for non-political hospital visits in hot countries. Lot 4: One personally endorsed copy of For Love Alone by Ivana Trump, hard-backed, dust-jacket missing. An inspiring tale of love, betrayal and survival. Essential reading for any woman who wishes to carve out a career based on her own achievements. (Remain-dered at £4.99.):

Lot 5: One cream veil, extra-iong, once used, slightly dusty. Lot 6: One pair jodhpurs. Yes, I adored them, yes, I was in love with them. But then I saw myself walking away in a fulllength mirror and realised they sion of my public moments of made me look, well, squidgy.

Lot 7: One box Kleenex, parily used; some of contents crumpled from being pushed under bathroom door. (Priceless.)

Lot 8: Pumps, flat. Currently surplus to requirements. Lot 9: Black satin ball-dress, puffed sleeves, low cleavage,

full skirt. As seen enting car at the Hairdryers for Somalia Ball. 1967. (Bits by invitation only.) Lot 10: White silk ball-dress with matching bolero jacket, embroidered with bugle beads, stashed to the thigh. As seen exiting car at the Deprived Children's Tap and Ballet Gala,

Royal Opera House, 1988. (£500

stalls, £800 dress circle.) Lot 11: Blue onesieeve ball-dress. matching tiara. As seen exiting car at the Hollywood Loves the Homeless Gala Dinner Dance and charity hoedown, 1989. (\$10,000 a plate.)

Lot 12: Diamond and sapphire brooch depicting a lion and a unicom trenchant, locked in battle over a stylised crown. Crown slightly wobbly. Latin inscription reads "Mishcon Vincit Omnia". (£15m.)

Lot 13: Selection of cosmetics. Includes pearlised white eyeshadow, with instructions for enlarging appearance of wounded fawnlike eyes.

Lot 14: Halo, tarnished; questionable restoration donated by mine clearance organisation, 1997. Comes with narrow-cut, crop-leg trousers and shatterproof visor. Lot 15: Diamond pendant, in

shape of heart, detail of ruby droplets. Most effective when worn on sleeve, Lot 16: Tutu, tear-stained.

If anyone can find it in their hearts to give just a little for any of these items, closed hids will be accepted until the end of the week. Please remember, what may seem a lot to you could make all the difference to keeping me on the front page. It has been a difficult year for me, but I take great comfort when 1 think how much more difficult it is for other people. Anyway, must get on. I've got a couple of maids to fall out with before I meet the girls at San Lorenzo.

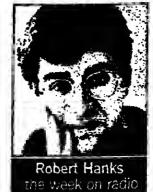
Sounding off about noise

t's a disheartening truth for anybody who works in or around radio that for most people, most of the time, radio isn't used as a source of information or entertainment, Instead, we employ it as a source of sound, an accompaniment to other things; and it's not as if those other things are the important, meaningful parts of our lives. You don't switch the radio on when you're really having a good time or you really need to concentrate; Radio 4 is rarely used as an aid to seduction. Instead, we use radio as an anaesthetic to dull the pain of all those chores necessary to maintain life – shaving, driving to work, sitting in an office, driving home again, washing up, ironing. When we can't

You might have expected this hunger for meaningless noise to be a major theme in Stephen Connor's series of talks entitled Noise (Radio 3, Monday-Friday), advertised as an "exploration of the noises at the edges of our lives which make the soundtrack of the late 20th century". Nothing of the kind: the

talk to each other, we still like

10 feel the noise.



thread which ran through all five programmes was the idea that in a world surrounded by more noise than ever before the ticking of clocks, the revving of engines, the clacking of the Walkman, the trilling and blipping of phones, the whirts, clicks and bleeps of computers - we tend to impose artificial meanings on noise, to construe them as a kind of speech. Dr Connor spoke of inhuman sounds pushing towards the condition of the voice, of the modern

obsession with noise. We are, certainly, obsessed with noise in the sense that we seem to want an awful lot of pletely than ever before, in

it. But the idea that obsession fact. You suspect that meanhas anything to do with meaning seems plain wrong. Rather, we have become supremely tolerant of and indifferent to noise. What is happening in the modern world is that we are pushing voices towards the condition of inhuman sound, turning them into something merely A serendipitous piece of

Machine (Radio 3, Monday-Priday) running a series of programmes on muzak, which Charles Hazlewood characterised as "the cement of modern life, which fills in all the gaps and excludes the draughts of silence". What became clear from these programmes was bow far music is deprived of meaning when it is played constantly. It wasn't always like this - when Habitat first introduced in-store music in 1964, people would dance in the aisles; now, music teachers complain that students exposed to hackground music are becoming incapable of sitting down and listening.

We've learnt to ignore the meanings in sound more com-

ing only seems important when you have to sit down and write a series of talks on sound; and here, the effort to find meaning pushed Connor towards the condition of spouting significant-sounding nothings. In an episode devoted to sound and movement, for instance, he spoke of our ears being constantly assailed by "travelling sounds scheduling had The Music and the sounds of travel": but all sounds are, by definition, travelling sounds sound is one way energy travels. Elsewhere, he opined that "the irritation induced by the Walkman is an irritation at knowing you have been reduced to the condition of a ghost for this person." Well, partly, maybe: mostly it's an irritation at the horrible noise

> they make, Without wanting to derract from the punchiness of Connor's writing, and the joyful elegance and subtlety of Tim Dee's production, which plasicred ambient noises all over Connor's words, most of what this series had to say struck me as absolute rubbish. Then again, does that matter? Who, after all, was listening?

A case of mine over matter

n the days when Hitchcock ambled across shot in his own films, the authorial cameo role was a discreet visual trinket of no discernible purpose. Recently, the in-joke has been acquiring sophistication and depth. In The People is Lamy Flyns, the porn magnate takes a small, vengeful part as his own nemesis, the judge who once sentenced him to 25 years in prison. In Fever Pach, Nick Hornby plays the coach of a school team hammered by a side run by his cinematic alter-ego: more than just an aside for the cognoscenti, it presents the author as the victim of his own

runaway success. Nostromo (BBC2, Sai) failed to break new ground in most areas, unless you count its record-breakingly meagre ratings, but it did manage it in this one. The mine owner shot at the start of episode one was ducer Michael Wearing: as the assassination set the whole ball rolling, this read like Wearing's pre-emptive admission of mea culpa. Scriptwriter John Hale played the British imperialist who built the railway line through Costaguana's impenetrable interior - a role not dissimilar to his off-screen task of ploughing a linear narrative through Conrad's unyielding epic.



Where the railway made it

through intact, the novel containing it sustained irreparable sessive epithet of the title. But damage in the course of its four-part journey. What with the superabundance of plot to wade through, a typical sequence would offer a string of pencil-thin scenes heavily freighted with narrative cargo. Too many were undernourished and overworked, so that played by the executive pro- at times it was like watching a chain gang of anorexics carrying their own weight in baggage on their backs up a mountain. There was simply no time for the story to be lateral, to roam free like Spice Girl Geri's (ITV. Tues).

By the final episode you'd just about worked out which goaty foreigner was which, but the script never quite kicked the habit of helpfully explain- on board the tortuous novelty leader of the Coal Board.

else what they already knew, in the desperate, oddly obfuscaiing pursuit of clarity. "Dr Monygham, who is, as you know, a doctor..." "My hushand Charles, to whom I am sure you will recall I am married..." The script wasn't quite that solicitous, but sometimes felt it. You might have found a perverse logic to the unstinting repetition of names, as the novel is about the original man with no name, a kind of proto-Clint whose real name has been replaced by the pos-

rad plainly did. Nostromo also compromised its integrity by imposing English dialogue on Italian- and Spanish-speaking actors even when their characters were chatting among themselves. There were some brief, illogical forays into the tongues of the countries where the co-production money came from, and these were like chinks giving on to a promised land of vocal fluency from which the unruly torso at the Brit Awards rest of the film was nonsensically barred. The series went down well in Italy, no doubt partly because they hate subtitles far more than they hate dubbing, and could even take

you'd have to enjoy tying your-

self in knots as much as Con-

ing itself: to the bitter end, of Italian actors being dubbed everyone was telling everyone into Italian. But British audiences are allergic to dubbing and, although spared that indignity, had so put up with some clunky post-synching of the non-English actors. Poor Claudio Amendola, as the eponymous fixer, was fatally emasculated by his sluggish pronunciation. If Colin Firth gave the most imposing and naturalistic performance, he would be the first to admit that he had a head start. And however overweening

its ambition, the production was undermined by the paucity of its copious crowd scenes. Here was one deficiency which could have been made good with a little capital outlay. They needed the sort of frenzied multitude brazenly bussed in to liven up The Brit Awards. You were reminded of Nosiromo when the Bee Gees won their lifetime achievement gong and a clip showed them singing "New York Mining Rhodesian Mining Disaster 1996, also known as Rhodes, the BBC has now suffered a Colombian Mining Disaster 1997. Expect a drama about Arthur Scargill in about 12 months' time, in which, following the trend of the meaningful cameo. Scargill will make an appearance as the

DAMIEN HURIS ... and his painfully creative struggle Kerber DAMIEN I JUST TOREAUT THAT I SOLD HORRIBLE! -BABE, WHAT'S HAD THE A PAINTING FOR TEN ONLY TEN GRAND THE MATTER? MOST GRAND, AND THEN ON FOR A PAINTING!!! NIGHTMARE MUGGED BY AN ARMED ROBBER WHO STOLE THE MONEY !!

Whatever happened to... Eddie 'the Eagle'

Edwards

Where eagles dare

On 1 March 1988, Eddie the Eagle returned home to Britain a star, having come last in the Olympic ski-jump-ing event: 56th out of 56. He captured the nation's hearts as a great British loser: tripto the crowds wine lounging at the top of the 90ft slope before jumping. After the

games he travelled to Finland to record a pop song only to find the composer had just died of a beart attack. In the wake of his sporting triumphs, the plas-terer from Cheltenham gave press conferences and promoted Eagle T-shirts. But he didn't let such success go to ping over his baggage in didn't let such success go to front of the world's media; his head, staying with his parreading The star and waving ents in a house that backed on to a hospital. Handy for

an ski-jump accident in 1989

being a regular pastime). He joked later that they "planned to do a brain scan

He didn't capture the hearts of the British Olympic Association, though, who banned him from competing at the Albertville games in 1992, in which he broke his on the grounds that be was

Wings of hope

Eddie's trademark bad luck started to become increasingly unlucrative. In 1993, be hit the headlines after clearing a 10-car ski-jump and damaging his own vehicle in the process (it had been parked too close to the ramp). By 1994, his star had

collarbone (bone-breaking jumping without due care entrance at Lillehammer because be was wearing slalom rather than jumping skis, he was reduced to making public appearances by other means, opening a holiday home in Devon in a chicken outfit because it was the closest they had to an eagle. His latest idea is a comeback at the Winter Olympics in 1998. But he's getting on a bit. He may be able to fly, but can he land? James Anfenast



WEATHER

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General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

ressure will remain low to the north and high to the south with fronts moving east across the British Isles. Today, Scotland and the Northern and

weather with a southwesterly gale. There will, though, be some bright spells to the south and east. Northern Ireland will be cloudy with heavy rain and a blustery southwest wind. England and Wales will be mostly try with hazy sunshine. However, there will be lots of cloud and a strengthening southwest wind with showery rain to the north. Rain will clear during Sunday, followed by

Western Isles will get a lot of wet and windy

substime, showers and gusty westerly winds. Monday will see scattered showers, but also some sunshine, and the wind will ease. Thes-

day will be fine with sunshine and patchy cloud, but rain will spread into the northwest before moving south during Wednesday. Brighter weather and showers will follow, but southern England may stay dry.	Athens c Auckland s Bangkok f Barcelona s Belgrade s Belgrade s Betfin s Bombay hz
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d	pread into the northwe during Wednesday. showers will follow, i may stay dry. 54 Prymouth r 10 50 Ronaldsway s 9 52 Scarborough 123 54 Shrewsbury f 11 50 Southend c 12 55 Southend c 12 54 St Andrews c 12 55 Stornoway sh 6 57 Tree sh 8 57 York 11	Barcelor Belrat Belgrad Berlin Bombay Sinssels Signation Signature	1 38100 1 5 15 59 1 17 63 1 10 50 1 12 36 97 1 13 55 2 8 46 1 2 36 97 1 13 55 2 8 2 81 2 9 84 1 2 9 88 1	Jerutalem Jo'burg Kunis Lumpur Lisbon *Los Angeles Madrid Majorca Malta Melbourne *Miami Moscow	\$ 18 64 \$ 2 377 \$ 13 55 \$ 13 55 \$ 13 55 \$ 13 55 \$ 13 55 \$ 13 55 \$ 15 59 \$ 16 61 \$ 16 61 \$ 16 61 \$ 12 28 82 \$ 2 3 37	licusia arts rague teykjavik ilyadit tome lingspore tockholin yytney enertie irse oliyo enice lientia larshw Washington refilington	18 15 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18
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AA Roadwatch Conden A316 Hammersmith Brider Closed both ways to general traffic for smutural works. Expect congestion on both sides of the river.

Bristol, MS J18-19. Contradiow in operation acrost the Avonmouth Bridge with a Shoph greed limit. Reg. ular rush-hour delays. Souffordshire, A5 near M6 J12. Closed both ways between Gailey Island

(A449) and the M6J12 for roadworks

Diversions in one via the A5, A460 and M54. MI West Yorkshire. 147 Leeds (M621/A653 Holbeck), long-term readworks and have closures with spend limits down to Ximph. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dews-

bury Road. M431-2 and A4. Chiswick area, Varions weekend closures for mainterangework on the elevated section of the M4. (A4 closed between M4 J2 slip roads under elevated section. Diver-

sions in operation). Cayof Edinburgh, MR.D. Major roadwords, with lane closures on the roundabout at 12 (Newbridge Spur).

Out and about with AA Road-watch est 0336 401 to the lasts local and national traffic ness. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls charged at 39p per min (cheep rate) 49p per min (all other times) inc VAT.

The Sky at Night

The position of Comet Hale-Bopp through March and early April

a spectacular first mag-I nitude object, easily visible to the naked eye. It is expected to brighten by about another magnitude during the coming month. As anticipated, it has developed the two tails characteristic of comets: a broad curving dust tail and a narrower, straighter gas tail. Low power binoculars will afford a fine view. The darker your skies, the more tail you will see. A finding chart is hardly necessary since the comet is so conspicuous, but it

omet Hale-Bopp is now

serves to illustrate the comet's day-to-day passage against the stars. For the next couple of weeks, Comet Hale-Bopp is still best observed in the hour or two before dawn, low in the north-eastern sky. From the middle of the month, there will also be an evening viewing opportunity. The comet will hang low over the northwest horizon as the evening sky darkens. By the end of March. early evening will be the better time to observe it.

Jaqueline Mitton

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The big picture

Sun 9.30pm BBC2

Writing about Oliver Stone's marathon take on the assasination of President Kennedy, this paper's Adam Mars-Jones referred to Stone "compulsively fingering the stigmata of the martyred Kennedy". Here it is then, in slow-motion, flashback any way you want it - the events of November 1963, with Kevin Costner (8bove) as New Orleans OA Jim Garrison, trying to get to the bottom of things. Factually shaky and carried away by its own rhetoric, but Stone has done little that is better.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert



Crime Traveller Sat 8.10pm BBC1 Performance: Company Sat 8.30pm BBC2 Asteroid Sat 9.10pm ITV Love Life Sun 7.30pm C4 Omnibus Sun 10.20pm BBC1 The South Bank Show Sun 11pm ITV

could have landed anywhere on the globe - Siberia, say, or the Indian Ocean - but it chose to impact smack on top of the American Midwest, scoring a bullseye

on a hydro-electric dam to boot.

Asteroid is a chip off the old Independence Day block, except that the intergalactic threat is impersonal this time, and more credible. Ask a dinosaur. Michael Biehn, who played the hero in Terminator, runs around manfully evacuating Kansas City: Annabella Sciorra is the astronomer who told them so. It's all right, really, and a lot less monotonous than

It's not a bad night for science fiction, in fact.

Crime Traveller (Sat BBC1) has Michael French (shifty ladies man David Wicks from EastEnders) as a police detective who owns a novel weapon in the fight against crime – a rickety, home-made time machine, knocked up by the department's science officer (Chloe Annett), in her living room. This is a fabulous idea, delivered begins a new run of filmed stage drama with the

ou've got to admire the demographic acumen of the space debris in the imported TV disaster movie Asterold (Sat ITV). The rock in question ston plays their boss, expostulating away at each crime scene, Michael Winner-style. The only doubt is with Michael French. Just as some TV actors don't transfer well to the big screen, I'm not sure French travels that well from soaps to the action genre. He acts better with his eyes than with his arms and legs.

After The Real Holiday Show, a real marriage show.

Love Life (Sun C4) puts hidden cameras into the home

of a couple whose marriage is going through the emo-tional equivalent of northern Greenland during a cold snap. Enter Dr Janet Reibstein and her five key-words for a happy relationship: "protection". "balance", "focus", "gratitude" and "pleasure". This week's little lesson concerns "protection", or "your partner is your unique ally". And there are examples of real-life happy marriages for us to study - so that we can recognise "protection" in its natural habitat. Uncertain partners

Dommar Warehouse's 1996 version of Stephen Sond-heim's Company (Sat BBC2). Amazingly, this is the first West End revival of this fabulous musical since it first appeared back in 1971. Apart from the stuff about smoking pot for the first time, Sondheim's witty take on the joys and pitfalls of being married/single hasn't dated in the slightest. In fact, in the case of Britain, it is probably more contemporary now than it was in the

The South Bank Show (Sun ITV) takes The Bee Gees back to their Mancunian roots and demonstrates that, like all great pop survivors (although association with Saturday Night Fever nearly killed them), they are first and foremost great song-writers. Omnibus (Sun BBC1) has a tantalising portrait of the 88-year-old Count Balthazar Klossowski de Rola, to give the painter Balthus his real name. Balthus is probably bestknown for his "enigmatic" portraits of young girls -enigmatic in the sense that the young girls are exoticised. Balthus swears he is not, as he puts it, a follower of Nabokov. "The young-girl issue" as Balthus puts it, comes to dominate the film. A pity.



The big match Five Nations: England v France Sat 2.25pm BBC1

Terrestrial viewers' last chance to watch this fodure (all of Englands Twickenham games have been bought by BSkyB) and this is the one which will decide where the silverware goes this year. Phil de Glamville may have called for a clamp down on the pre-match restiness, but don't necessarily expect the civilities to last on the pitch. The Tricolores are without all their part of the Tricolores are without all their first-choices for the. three quarter line, but welcome back. Alain Penaud (above), captain of European club champions, Brive.

Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R)(S)(T) (1840604). 7.25 News, Weather (3282371). 7.30 Children's BBC: Felix the Cat (3988994). 7.45 Phantom 2040 (8216888). 8.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (5008-468), 8.35 The Flintstones (5277791).

9.00 Live and Kicking, Record company boss Paul Burger is in the Hot Seat, Ant and Dec and Eternal perform their latest singles, and 5usan Tully talks about Red Nose Day '97 (S) (78008975), 12.12 Weather (7637826).

12.15 Wearnet (7637626).
12.15 Grandstand: Football Focus (2353333). 1.00
News (81975517), 1,05 Racing from Newbury:
the 1.15 race (47863536). 1.25 5kiing: the women's downhill from Nagano, Japan (59691604). 1,40 Racing from Newbury: the 1,45 race (83745062). 1,55 Rugby Union (83768913), 2.10 Racing from Newbury: the 2.15 race (36396826), 2.25 Rugby Union England v France: Live coverage from Twickenham (kick-off 3pm). 5ee The big match, above (35667246), 4.40 Final Score (3693536), 5.00 Rugby Union: extended highlights of Scotland v Ireland (6913).

5.30 News, Weather (7) (383975). 5.40 Regional News and Weather (598246).

5.45 Dad's Army (R)(T) (256791). 6.15 The New Adventures of Superman (S) (870623).
 7.00 Noel's House Party, The bearded pranister puts one over on Gordon Burns, while the Spice Girls and Ronnie Corbett drop by (S) (626159).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. With Wet Wet Wet and Joanne May (S)(T) (136975).
8.10 Crime Traveller. See Preview, above (S)(T)

9,00 News and Sport, Weather (7) (944325). 9.20 ERM Dancing in the Dark (Bill Corcoran 1995 U5). One woman's fight against the lecherous advances of her father in law, a pillar of the Texas legal community (T) (7264826).

10.50 Match of the Day, Newcastle United v Southampton is the main event (S) (1) (8525389). 12.00 Chalk. Second-sitting teacher sitcom (R) (23314). 12.30 Top of the Pops. From yesterday, featuring the Spice Girls, Sash!, Republica, Cathy Oennis and

Bush (R)(S)(1) (77647). 1.00 Silver Dream Racer (Oavid Wickes 1980 UK). A London garage mechanic dreams of being a top motorcycle racer. When his brother is killed in had been working on, and sets out to prove himself

on the racing circuit (993802). 2.45 Weather (3440173). To 2.50am. REGIONS. NI: 2.25 Rugby Union: Scotland v Ireland, 4.35 England v France, Scot: 2.25: Rugby Union: Scotland v Ireland, 4,40 Afternoon Sportscene. 5.00 England v France, 9.20 Mind the Gap. 9.50 5portscene - Match of the Day. 11.00 Film: Dancing in the Dark, 12,30 Chalk, 1,00 Top of the Pops. Wales: 10,20pm Satellite City.

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Disappearing Childhood (7555642). 6.45 Earthquakes: Seismology at Work (9356401). 7.10 Using TV (9199352).

Work (9356401). 7.10 Using TV (9199352).

8.00 Open Saturday (S) (885130).

10.30 The Static Nomad (R) (5569246).

10.35 Carrier's Caribbean. Cookery (R) (7320807).

10.50 The Sky at Night. Quasars explained (2624197).

11.10 MINE Bringing Up Baby (Howard Hawks 1938 US). A triple bill of Howard Hawks movies begins with his beautifully judged screwball comedy, which has paleontologist Cary Grant losing a vital dinosaur bone to heiress Katharine Hepburn's dog bul ending up with the best set of bones going ~ bul ending up with the best set of bones going -Hepburn's (T) (82979913).

12.50 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S)(T) (6931807). 1.20 First Sergeant York (Howard Hawks 1941 U5).
The second in the Hawks triple bill is relatively conventional for the director - and stars Gary Cooper as the true-life pacifist hillbilly who becomes a hero of the Great War (19726913).

3.25 Howard Hawks: American Artist. Documentary about Hawks (S) (1166401).

4.25 Rio Lobo (Howard Hawks 1970 US). The Hawks trilogy rounds off with the director's final film, a sort of weary rehash of Rio Bravo and El Dorado, with lots of jokes about the size of John Wayne's girth and some lackadaisical business about Yankee traitors (53383159). 6.15 Crufts 97 (S) (279642).

6.45 News and Sport, Weather (1) (294178). 7.00 Correspondent. Emily Buchanan reports on a eugenics programme run by the Canadian province of Alberta unbil 1972, Plus, Nigerian writer Donu Kogbara visits Uganda to leam about a campaign to abolish (emale circumcision (S)(T) (721178).

7.45 Branded: Levi's Blue Dreams. Levi jeans were created for Californian gold miners 145 years ago. The 501 brand is a low-tech product consisting of one-and-three-quarier yards of denim, five buttons and five rivets, and the mark-up is in the order of 40 per cent. Enter the marketing men (510082). 8.25 Clase Up (R) (728265).

8.30 Performance: Company. See Preview, above (S)(T) (75419975). 10.50 ESSE Harrison Bergeron (Bruce Pittman 1995 Can). TV movie based on a story by Kurt Vonnegut. In 2053, anti-intellectual forces have inherited the

earth and everyone must wear an electronic

headband which scrambles intelligent thought. What's wrong with the good old Sun? (322743 12.25 Windows on the World. Film about Edgard Variese the revolutionary French composer (5) (8815192). 1.25 Global Videobyte. Then Weather (6634622). To 1.50am.

REGIONS. Scot: 1.20 Howard Hawks: American Artist. 2.15 Conference 97. 3.45 Film: The North Star. 5.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Wales: 11.10 Howard Hawks: American Artist. 12.10 Film: Rio Lotio. 2.00 Wales Liberal Democrats Party Conference. 4.00 Film: Sergeant York.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.15 Dragonflyz. 7.45 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Gargoyles (6910994).
9.25 Scratchy and Co. Alisha's Attic, impressionist Earl Grey and the cast of children's TV show Snap are the guests. Plus, a location report on Peter Andre's new video, shot in Los Angeles (S) (24495994).
11.30 The Chart Show (S) (38888).
12.30 Fresh. A look at the life and work of leading young

The Chart Show (S) (38888).
 Fresh. A look at the life and work of leading young hat designer, Philip Treacy (36352).
 News, Weather (T) (81993913).
 Los London Weekend Today (T) (81992284).
 Champions' League Special. Previews of this week's quarter-finals, including the Manchester United match against FC Porto (70283438).
 Ao Racing Stewart. Fly-on-the-wall documentary on the preparation and launch of the Jackie Stewart Formula One team (13851971.

Formula One team (1385197).

2.40 Stuntmasters (R) (5383739).

3.10 Fits Please Turn Over (Gerald Thomas 1960) UK). An almost quintessential title for a Gerald Thomas comedy (this is the man who helmed virtually all the Carry On movies) in which teenage Jean Kent causes scandal in suburbia by publishing a racy novel involving her neighbours. Ted Ray, Leslie Phillips, Charles Hawtrey and Joan 5ims co-star (77013265).

5ims co-star (7/01.3265).
4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (1) (3687975).
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (1) (1850197).
5.20 Ctueless. Ex-Baywaich regular Nicole Eggert guest-stars (S)(1) (8018915).
5.45 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch. Thoroughly old-fashioned sitcom, with echoes of Bewitched and, more clearly, The Munsters. It's the winter break and Aunt Zelda and Hilda take Sabrina to Mars for a family skiling vacation (S)(1) (856246). a family skiing vacation (S)(T) (856246), 6.10 You Bet! Paul Ross, Malandra Burrows and Garry

6.10 You Bet! Paul Ross, Malandra Burrows and Garry Bushell place their bets as a basketball player from the London Leopards tries to score points blindfold, a Sheffield diving team jumps through hoops and an Emmerdale fanabic attempts to identify clips from just four seconds of dialogue (S) (265642).
7.10 Bird Date (S)(T) (355159).
8.10 It'll Be Alright on the Night, With the avuncular Denis Norden (R)(T) (265623).
9.10 Asteroid. See Preview, above (S)(T) (43496178).
10.55 News, Weather, Lottery Result (T) (821333).
11.10 BIMS Deliver Them from Evil: the Taking of Alta View (1993). Fact-based TV movie in which a religious fanatic and father of eight (a thoroughly unlikely Harry Hamflin) lays slege to the Utah hospital where his wife was sterilised (679420).
12.55 BIMS Head On (Michael Grant 1980 Can). Sally Kellerman and Stephen Lack play two drivers

Kellerman and Stephen Lack play two drivers involved in a head-on car crash. They swap legal writs; they kiss (5499227). 2.25 El News Review (9926227). 3.15 Club Nation (R) (2807444).

4.10 ITV Sport Classics (R) (41271579). 4.35 Cool Vibes (S) (34192289).

4.40 Coach. Double episode of the sittom about an American football coach (S) (7239956).
5.30 News (19111). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (69352). 7.00 Dumb and Dumber (S) (27555). 7.30 Dennis (R) (3971604).

7.45 First Edition (R)(S) (3976159): 8,00 Transworld Sport (R) (24352). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (47569). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (62866).

11.00 NBA 24/7. Houston Rockets v Los Angeles Lakers (S) (15710). 12.00 Missing Parents. Short film drama about an obnoxious teenager who returns home to find his

parents have run away (R) (2360623). 12.35 Racing from Doncaster. Jim McGrath introduces the 12.50 Light Infantry Plate, 1.25 Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy, 2.00 Velka Pardubicka Grimthorpe Handicap Chase and the 2.30 Air Power Products

Handicap Hurdle (S) (45439975).

2.50 Pete Smith Specialties (2905913).

3.00 Even Hans Christian Andersen (Charles Vidor 1952 U5), Biopic bearing very little resemblance to the true story of the Danish fairy-story creator. Danny Kaye takes the title role (T) (90248642).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S)(T) (2217604). 6.30 Right to Repty (S)(1) (7).

7.00 A Week in Politics. With Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley (S) (4642). 8.00 Fragile Kingdoms. Focus on a trio of American children living an extraordinary life deep in the Ituri

Forest of Zaire, where their parents are dedicating their lives to studying forest animals and plants with the help of the Bambuti pygmies (1) (6802).

9.00 Last Chance Lottery. Show celebrating life's losers, which is kind of ironic (S) (6046).

10.00 Eurotrash. Italian porn star Jessica Rizzo and her new perfume, Erotika, Paco Rabanne and his apocalyptic visions, and the reasons for Baywatch star David Hasselhoff's popularity in Germany. It's his singing, apparently (R)(S) (81951).

10.30 The Show. Another deconstructed chat show with Bob Mills and the backstage team (\$) (6820951). 11.35 Hill Street Blues, The seminal 1980s Boston cop squad target a rapist (R)(T) (541642).

12.35 The Client. Orama series set in the American law courts, based on John Grishiam's best-selling thriller. Reggie defends a litted schoolgirl who is accused of killing her date (S) (5358647). 1.30 The Girlie Show, From last night, with guests Patsy

Palmer (Bianca from EastEnders) and former Page 3 model Sam Fox (S) (24686). OO Ricki Lake, People who want to decl television that they have had enough of their exlovers in the hope that the spurned partners will

finally get the message (R)(S)(1) (8587647). 2.45 Beavis and Butt-Head (R)(S) (5500395). 3.10 Flava. The Fugees, Busta and B Real are among the artists (S) (65034208).

3.40 Bless This House (R)(S) (1.3455208). 4.10 Film Night Special: The English Patient. The making of (R)(5) (8392463).

5.05 The Beat Specials (S) (1005579). To 6.20am.-.

ITV/Regions

MRELIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Gernes and Videos (36352): 1.05 Anglia News (3/92284). 1.40 World of Wonder (2667401). 2.15 Baywath! (2529994). 3.05 Film: Carry On Jack (92921642). 5.05 Anglia News and Sport (1850197). 12.55 Carral Knowledge (5354821). 1.55 Film: The Genet American Sex Scandal (138173). 3.30 Sound Effes (67925937). 3.40 Halter Seiter (9035918). 4.30 - 5.30am Furley Burder (26482).

CBRR4L
As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (36352): 1.05
Control News (81992264: 1.40 Fixe: The Absent Mindof Professor (8599326): 3.20 Movies, Games and Videos
(8618159): 3.50 seaCuest DSV (8942555): 5.05 Central News (9045807): 5.10 - 5.20 Central March Control
Extra (3819994): 4.10 Jobindor (4707531): 5.20 5.30am Asian Eye (8529579):

5.30am Asian Eye (8529579).

HTV WINLES
As London except: 12.30pm Mowes, Cames and Victors (36352): 1.05 HTV News (81992284). 1.40 Something in the Blood (1385197). 2.40 World of World (1305420). 3.05 Films The BRAT Pathol (922):642). 5.05 HTV News and Sports Results (2850197): 12.55 Cames Knowledge (535482)). 1.55 Films The Great News (138173). 3.35 Sound Bites (67925937). 3.40 Helter Stetler (9035918): 4.30 - 5.30em Finnly Bunker (26482).

NERDAR As Landon instruct 12.30pm Pler Pressure (36352), 1.05 Medition News (91992284), 1.40 Movies, Garnes and Videos (2667401), 2.15 Beywatch (2529994), 3.05 Plans Carry On Jack (92921642), 5.05 Mendion News (1850197), 12.55 Carnal Knowledge (5354821); 1.55 Plans The Great American Sex Scandal (138173), 335 Sound Dies (67925937), 3.40 Heier Steller (9035918), 4.30 - 5.30am Pintley Bunker (26482).

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garries and Videos
GaGS23. LOS Westcourthy News (61992/284). LAO Racing Stewart, (1924062). 2.50 Airwolf (8799739). 3.50
seaGuest DSV. (8942/55). 5.05 Westcourtry News
(1850197). 12.55 Carnat Knowledge (5354821). 1.55
Film: The Greet American Sex Scandal (138173). 3.30
Sound Bites (5792/5937). 3.40 Helter Sketter (9035918).
4.30 - 5.30am Funloy Bunter (26482).

TORRISBINE
As Londoin except: 12.30 pm Movies, Games and Videos (36352), 1.05 Calendar News (81992984), 1.40 Films: All for Mary 44641517), 3.00 Films: The Plant (4270807), 3.50 Baywaitch (8932555), 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (3945907), 5.10 Scoreline (3819994), 12.55 (a. Bed with Medinare (5020937), 1.27 Films: The Lawyer (5449290), 3.30 Films: Burney Business (23550), 4.00 Collins: and Maconie's Movie Club (44043), 4.30 - 5.30 am Marder, She Whote (26482).

Cleaned 3 North East As Yorkshire except: 5.10pm Fell Yiros (3819994).

Sec. As Consistent with the control of the control

Radio

Radio 1

07 6-99 AUG R.O. 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodler 12.30 U2 - Oublin Live 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Oance Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix - Datt Punk 4.00 - 6.00am

198-90.2Mt: FM

6.00am Mo Outta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wight 1.00 The Monkhouse Archiv Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barra-clough 5.00 Return to Jollity Farm, See Choice, above, 6.00 Don Henley and Jose Feliciano in Concert 7.00 The Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks (R) 7.30 Polishing the Sun 9.30 Oavid Jacobs 10.00 No Leeks or Daffodils! 12.05 Jon. Briggs 4.00 · 7.00am Mo Outta

Radio 3

(90.2-92.44H); FMO 6.55am Weather; News 7.00 Record Review 9.00 Building a Library 10.15 Record Release

11.15 Reissues. Robert Philip has been listening to the sec-ond batch in Sony Classica's Masterworks Heritage series. 12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley's guest today is actor and satiust John Bird. (R) 1.00 The Power and the Glory.

Are churches locked in a verbal 1.15 News; Vintage Years. The third of four programmes ex-ploring the musical legacy of planist Artur Schnabel. 3.15 Youth Orchestras of the

5.00 Jazz Record Requests 5.45 Music Matters. Music in an-cient Rome, a new look at neglected composer Vincent d'Indy, and how to write a good national anthem. 6.30 Live from the Met: Aida.

Aida is a captured Ethiopian princess who is now an Egypt ian slave, and Radames is nder of the Egyptian army. Together, they have to choose between their love for With Sharon Sweet, soprano (Aida), Michael Sylvester, tenor

Choice

Two doses of English eccentricity: in Return to Jollity Farm (5pm R2), the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band is recalled by former members though not, alas, by the late Viv Stanshall (left); while Kaleidoscope (7.20pm R4) looks at the Gothic imagination of Horace Walpole. author of The Castle of Otranto.

12.55 Weather

1.10 Any Questions?

1.SS Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Any Answers? 10171) 580 4444. 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Tally's Blood. Ann Marie di Mambro's

Blood. Ann Mane of Mambro's play follows the Pedreschis through the darkest hours of the Second World War, and re-flects the vivacity, humour and

4.00 News; That's History Spe-

cral, Gerry Northam presents a brief history of obsession. 4.30 Science Now, is the Earth

(Radames), Stephania Toczys-Pons, baritone (Amonasro) Eric Halvarson, bass (Ramfis) Hao Jiang Tian, bass (King of Egyptl and Deng, tenor (Mes-senger). Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Drchestra/Adam Fischer. Act 1.
7.15 Oreaming of Rivers. Ahdal

Souelf, an Egyptan-torn novel-lst living in London, reflects on why she writes in English. IR) 7.35 Akda, Act 2 B.20 The Met Dpera Quiz B.40 Aida, Act 3
9.20 Fullness of Harmony. Simon
Callow reads about the effect
the last act of Verdi's Aida had

on Hars Castorp, hero of Thomas Mann's novel The Magic Mountain. (R) 9.40 Aida, Act 4

9.40 Åida, Act 4
10.35 Apocalypse Now and
Then. The last of the series,
Iwan Russell-Jones examines
the theology of the belief that
the end of the world is nigh.
11.00 Impressions. Brian Morton
talks to bass player and composer Graham Collier.
12.30 First Bass. Bass player
Ray Brown talks to Alyn Shipton about his career. (RI
1.00 - 6.00am Through the Night

17-19 Shit RL 1984z UN
6.00am News Briefing
6.10 Farming Today
6.50 Prayer for the Clay
6.55 Weather
7.00 Today
8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4 9.30 Breakaway 10.00 News; Loose Ends 11.00 News; The Week in West-

11.30 Asiafile. Julian Pettifer re-

ports from Hong Kong as it prepares for Hong Kong as it prepares for the handover.

12.00 Money Box

12.25 Just a Minute

really at risk from meteorites?
5.00 File on 4
5.40 See It My Way. Blind broad-caster Peter White explains with the spends so much ot his free time at sports events he

cart see.
5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Su O'Clock News
6.25 Week Ending
6.50 Close Ups. In the fifth of size 6.50 Close Ups. In the fifth of six programmes, Nigel Andrews meets one of Hollywood's most flamboyant mavencks, writer/director John Millus.
7.20 kaleidoscope Feature. Peggy Reynolds treads wanly into the strange world of the first-ever Gothic novel The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole. See Choice, above.

Otranto by Horace Watpole.
See Chorce, above.
7.50 On These Days. A look back at some of the events that took place 50 years ago this week.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Foreign Girls. A three-part drama about two Jewish women in England. by Elaine Feinstein.
Lena discovers why Katya so wants to see her And it's not a confidnitable discovery. (PD) comfortable discovery, (R)
9.35 Classics with Kay
9.50 Ten to Ten
9.59 Weather
10.00 News

10.15 American Norr Season: 8lack Belty. By Walter Mosley

On the dark side of the mean streets of Los Angeles in 1961. African-American private eye Easy Rawlins can go places a white detective cannot. 11.4S Britain in Pictures. Michael

Carney introduces and reads from British Polar Explorers, by Admiral Sir Edward Evan first published in 1943. (R) 12.30 Late Story: The Astronomical Scarf. By Ruth Rendell.
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

5.50 Inshore Forecast 51 Bells on Sunday 5.55 - 6.00am Shipping Forecast Radio 5

6.00am Oirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Sick as a Parrot 12.00 Baker and Kelly Up-front 1.00 Sport on Five. With Ian Payne. Rugby Union: commentary on England v France at Twicken-ham, and Scotland v Ireland at Murrayfield. Football: Premiership and League matches. Cricket: a look back at New Zealand and England. Plus rallying, golf and boxing, 6.06 Six-O-Six B.00

News and Sport 8.10 The Treat-ment 9.00 Dallyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Asian Perspective

11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM 100,0:101 SW:: An 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Jane 1.00 Alam Mann 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Travet Guide B.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Clas-sic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00 - 6.00am Michael Fanstone

Virgin Radio G715 1197-1260W2 WW 105 BMC FMD 6.60am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ in Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 Album Chart with Mark Forrest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10,00 Robin Banks 2.00 · 6.00am Howard Pearce

World Service

1995/15 (197) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Just a Minute 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Secing Stars 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday 5.30-6.00am Weekend

In Praise of God (SW 7150kHz)

Satellite

7.00 Orson and Olivia (50807), 7.30 Free Willy (62642), 8.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (53888). 9.00 Quantum Leap (46913). 10.00 Kurg Fu - the Legend Continues (68826), 11.00 Legends of the Hid-den City (72604), 11.30 Sea Rescue den City (72604). 11.30 Sea Rescue (73333). 12.00 Wrestling (75265). 1.00 Wrestling (84913). 2.00 Star Trek (13888). 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (84449). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (96284). S.00 Star Trek: Voyagar (3604). 6.00 Wrest Each Level (13804). 6.00 Kung Fp - the Legand Continues (71.449), 7.00 Hercules: the Leg-endary Journeys (1.4178), 8.00 Cop-pers (3.081), 8.30 Cops (1988), 9.00 Cops II (92468), 9.30 The Serial Killers (76994), 10.00 Law and Order (13449), 11.00 Red Shoe Di-ares (97913), 11.30 Movie Show (34371). 12.00 LAPD (54208).

Mix (1646685). 7.00 Severly Hills, 90210 (6223517). B.00 Metrose Place (6232265). 9.00 Pscritc Drive (6212401). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (7838536). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (7847284). 11.00 Stand and Deliver (2300555). 11.30 Stand and Deliver (7872791). 12.00 -6.00 Hit Mix Long Play (9719531).

12.30 The Lucy Show (81901), 1.00 Dream On (97685), 1.30 Smoulder-ing Lust (97014), 2.00 - 6.00 Hit

80YE CAMERI. 6.00 Helen of Troy (1955) (68371). 8.00 The Doby Sisters* (1945) (28710). 10.00 The Pride of Jesse Heltem (1981) (55888). 12.00 Bandit Bandit (1994) (18333). 2.00 Spencer's Mountain (1963) (28371). 4.00 Sept 4.00 Second Chance (1995) (6178). 6.00 A View to a Kill (1985) (15807). 8.00 Don Juan DeMarco (1995) (10352), 10.00 Waterwork (1995) (49513517), 12.15 Killing Zoe (1994) (585735), 1.55 Waterwork (1995) (96101376), 4,10 - 6,00 Second Chance (1995) (867444).

557 BUTES 6.00 Skippy and the Intruders (1969) (37401), 8.00 The Big Show (1961) (37468), 10.00 Ladybug Ladybug (1963) (67246), 12.00 The Stone Boy (1984) (10791), 2.00 Grayeagle (1978) (97401), 4.00 Morors from Outer Space (1985) (8536), 6.00 Radioland Murders (1994) (17265). B.00 The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) (12710). 10.00 Mr Jones (1994) (899052). 11.55 Animal Instincts 2 (1993) (700159). 1.30 Double Cross (1994) (37024), 3,00 War-lock the Armageddon (1993) (403734), 4,35 - 6,00 Ladybug La-dybug (1963) (5970821).

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2501 MONIEZ COFT 6.00 Iceman (1984) (3018333). -8.00 Back to the Future (1985) (3020178). 10.00 Running Scared (1986) (6940619). 11.50 The Cage

(1989) (7842710). 1.35 Benea

the Valley of the Ultra Vivens (1979) (6/107734), 3.15 · 4.55 Badman's Verritory* (1946) (1489685). 7.00 International One-Day Cricket New Zealand v England (151710). 9.30 Racing News (27517). 10.00 Gott: Dubai Desert Classic (203807). 1.00 Sports Saturday (7265197).

S.30 International One-Day Cricket New Zealand v England (347420). 8.00 Ringside (360371). 10.38 In-

ternational Rusby Union (194265), 1.00 Spanish Football (52024), 3.00 5.00 Ringside (64005). SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Soccer AM (8191178). 11.00-Football Special: Adidas Victory Shield Northern Ireland v Wales (9142246). 1.00 World Motor Sport (6225772). 3.30 Golf: Nissan Open (5041710). 5.30 Survival of the Fittest (5898604). 6.00 Footbell Special: Adidas Victory Shield Northern Ireland v Wales (6700710). 7.00 Spanish Football (2530178). 9.30 Triathion

(1073178). 10.30 Survival of the Fittest (4524401). 11.00 World Cup Classics (6709246). 12.30 · 1.00 Second trisings (4177294). SKT SPORTS 3 12.00 International Cricket South Africa v Australia: First Test (68835449), 3.30 Survival of the Fittest (83047555), 4.00 Trans World Sport (32527517). 5.00 Weter-Skiing (70910468). 5.30 Gotf: Dubai Desert Classic (66612994) B.00 Golf: Nissan Open (92746265) 11.00 Inside the PGA Sentor Tour

(32528246). 11.30 - 12.00 Water-

Skiing (30239371).

LIYETY
5.00 Pin Money 6.30 Fashlon 7.00
Sport 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Pop Quiz
B.30 Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad
9.00 Revelations 9.30 Fashlon 10.00
Agony 10.30 Bingo 10.45 Pet Squad
11.00 Triat TV 11.30 Fate and Fortune
12.00 Winy 12.30 Agony 1.30 Tital
TV 2.00 Fashlon 2.30 Agony 3.00
Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money
4.00 Looking for Love 4.30 Pop Quiz
5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Pop Show
6.00 Fashlon 6.30 Sports Live 7.00
Pin Money 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 6.00 rashioti 6.30 sports Live 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 Sport Quiz 8.00 Bushido 9.00 Bingo 9.15 Bottori Line 9.30 Why 10.00 Topless Darts; Sport Live 10.30 Stand-Up Live 11.00 Topless Darts; Fate and Fortune 11.30 Se Show 11.55 Emilica Emilica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30 - 6.00 Night Programmes

HIV WEST

nrv was As HTV Wales except. 1.10pm Sportsweek (1366/062). 1.45 LIEFA Champions Lesque Special (11046772). 2.10 Warld of Wonder (70539178). 2.30 Film: The BRAT Pa-trol (36192604). 4.10pm The List (4331623).



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Who controls China The Communist Party of China The State GENERAL SECRETARY **CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL** CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE IATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) CHAIRMAN the top achelon of party politics (there are another LT full members of the Polithuro) nina's parliament and organisation bringing together figures from the Communist the highest organ of ... state power. Meets arty, non-communist parties annually to enact laws ethnic minorities. Hong Kong and also has the and Taiwan representat wer to amend the the great and the good. A symbolic body with little clout CENTRAL MILITARY COMMISSION STATE COUNCIL

Also eight State Councillors including Chi Haotian from the party CMC Magnificent Seven start secretive struggle to guide China into the new millennium

Peking — China's election year formally kicks off this morning with the start of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC), the

Region

country's parliament. No one need expect surprises; the 3,000 delegates will rub-ber stamp new legislation in the wake of Deng Xiaoping's death just as they have always done. But behind the scenes the real jockeying for positions is starting, with several top jobs up for person in China grabs over the next 12 months. In contrast, Mr Jiang has had Even without Deng's death. this was always going to be the

in the post-Deng era. But, as in the West, Chinese politics involves a considerable sonnel decisions due to be imelement of keeping your allies plemented at the NPC next bappy and containing your en- March, such as the selection of emies. In China this year it is a -a new prime minister, will in factquestion of who gets what po- be made at the Communist

said this week: "There is still a lot to be fought over, but this does not mean they will fall out in some overt fashion."

A problem with interpreting Chinese power structures is that job titles have often counted for little: Thus, Deng held no formal position after 1990 but remained the most influential

every possible title heaped on him, including head of state, year when President Jiang party chief, and military com-Zemin had to cement his mander to bolster his position as a scemingly weak leader.

Another confusing factor is position as first among equals that the important state per-

The manoeuvrings ahead of that congress start today with this year's NPC. A full congress is held only once every five years, with annual plenum meetings in between. It is the most important date in China's

As Hong Kong marches to-

wards a future under Chinese

rule, who's in and who's out?

The omens are not good for those who want to kick against

Jimmy Lai, publisher of the outspoken Apple Daily newspa-per, yesterday suffered a finan-

cial blow when the chief

the pricks.

five-year political cycle. between themselves. As the

Kong's most popular weekly, and Apple Daily, the fastest-

growing newspaper in the

British coluny - has been pub-

licly critical of China for some

time. This time, such criticism

chairman, said that Next ap-

proached a dozen merchant

bankers to underwrite the flota-

Yenng Wai-hong, the group

seems to have cost it dearly.

State, party and military top personnel shuffle the top jobs chart shows, the same faces

munist party and the organs of state government. Mr Jiang's face appears as head of the party, the state, and the party's Central Military Commission (CMC), which

first wanted to consult Chinese

underwriter, Sun Hung Kai In-

son for the company said the

Peking doesn't like Mr Lai.

ready. In 1994 he published an

editorial that called the Chinese

Mr Yenng said that the lead

standing committee of the Polithuro, which is the most powerful party grouping. Two of the seven, Mr Jiang

"Magnificent Seven" of Chinese

politics - the members of the

three up jobs? Who will take Fortune frowns on he who dares to criticise

> representatives in Hong Kong. Peking store was closed. ternational Ltd, told Next that it was pulling out. A spokesperdecision was purely commercial . But the message is clear: He probably knew that al-

Shortly afterwards, Mr Lai's cinthing store hit licensing problems in China and his ■ Hnng Kong (AP) - The Hong Kong retailer Dickson Concepts announced vesterday it has prepared an offer to take over the New York retailer Barney's for

\$240m (£150m). Dickson controls a number of fashion brands in Hong Kong, and owns the Harvey Nichols Group.

Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, Qiao Shi, Li Ruihuan, and Zhu Roogji. all have senior state positions. The personnel decisions which have to be made this year include: Will Mr Jiang keep all

party CMC. Five of the seven.

over as prime minister io March 1998 when Li Peng steps down? Leading contenders are the politburo member and Jiang ally. Wu Bangguo, and vice prime ministers, Li Lanqing and Zhu Rongji. What new position can Mr Jiang offer Mr

Li to secure his loyalty? Current thinking is that Mr Jiang wants to re-invent the post of party chairman (a position held by Mao Zedong) for himself, and Mr Li would be offered

a vice-chairmanship. But would that satisfy Mr Li,

rule him out for any high pro-file representative post, such as Behind the scenes of the People's Congress, the jockeying is under way, writes Teresa Poole president? What will Mr Jiang do with

Mr Qiao, a man billed as a quasi-reformer who has built a power base as bead of the NPC? These two men do not get along, and this is Mr Jiang's most challenging gamble.

There is nothing in the constitution which says Mr Qiao cannot continue at the NPC, but he is expected to step down because of his age. Would be be satisfied with another deputy chairmanship of the party?

Will Mr Jiang finally be able to retire Generals Liu and Zhang from the party CMC, and install two more of his mil-

itary allies? Shuffling the pack will also mean bringing in a crop of new faces over the next year, the men who will lead China in the 21st century. For the moment, whose unpopularity seems to Mr Jiang remains the favourite.

tion, and most stayed out. Mr underwriter of a planned share sition. One Western diplomat party congress this Autumn. issue pulled out. His Next media Young said one cited political Airlines and hotels strike gold as the Hong Kong handover looms

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Stephen Vines

Visitors wanting to come to Hong Kong to witness the his. that hotels are asking three toric handover of power in four...

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months' time can still make for the period around 30 June. bookings. But they will need a The rates are "horrendous", healthy bank balance.

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One travel agent estimated

said another agent, who declined to be named in case of damaging relations with hotels. times their normal room rates He added: "It's understandable: how many handovers can

you have?" Airlines are cutting out all discounted tickets, thus in effect doubling the price of econ-

Virgin Atlantic is imposing a surcharge.

According to Mark Siladi, the airline's regional manager. Virgin "is trying to protect the consomer and ensure that during

the period of the handover of sovereignty as many people as possible are able to return to Hong Kong".
The colony's official tourism organisations are sensitive to

iggestions of profiteering. Peter Randall, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA), said that the HKTA had done a survey of 78 per cent of the colony's hotels and found that a third of capacity was still open for

Harbourside and luxury hotels are fully booked, as are most of the lower-price hotels and hostels but in the mediumprice range availability is fairly good away from the central One problem is that many of

those wanting to be in Hong

Kong for this period have made

multiple bookings to ensure their pre British Airways, for example, has discovered that a quarter of its passengers have made more than one booking. These double bookings are now being

cleared.

the handover.

add extra flights.

insists that tickets for the handover period are paid for within seven days of reservations being made. This rapidly flushes out double-bookers, but not to the extent of clearing space in

British Airways currently has a waiting-list of 1,200 passengers for these few days. Negotiations are about to start with Hong Kong's civil aviation authorities to permit both British Airways and Cathay to

Meanwhile, there are a large

flights in the few days before

number of daily flights to Hong Kong from places such as the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.
These flights are less heavily booked than the direct flights to Hong Kong from Britain or

North America. Planning for lavish handover narties with international visitors started a couple of years

Ted Marr, one of Hong Kong's most famous international party-planners, is co-ordinating a typically lavish event lasting several days which will leave little change out of

£5,000. Few botel rooms are left at less than £100 a night but it will be easy to pay some £600 a

What's the bill Normal orice of discounted economy return airfare from

London to Hong Kong: 2600 approximately. Full-price economy fare during handover period: £1200 Medium-range hotel room at normal periods: £120 per

Medium-range hotal room during handover: 2300 per

Luxury-range hotel room at normal periods: £300 per Luxury-range hotel room during handover: £600 per

night in the bigger hotels. The bulk of available rooms are at prices in the middle of this

The local tourist industry is aware that the handover boom might prove to be a double-Carnay Pacific Airways now edged sword.
"If we don't handle it well", said one executive, "we might

> ter it's all over". The HKTA is already planning to avert this problem. From I July it will launch an ambitious programme of tourist events and discount schemes involving hotels, restaurants and

see a big drop in business af-

shops to lure back visitors. indeed, the best advice for would be visitors may be to wait and see Hong Kong once the new era begins. It will be much, much cheaper, that is



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calls. For whatever reason, the callers can't begin to tell us what's troubling them.

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Our number's in the phone book, or you can call our new national number on 0345 90 90 90. Every call is confidential. Even if you can't talk we'll listen.

The Samaritans. We'll go through it with you.

Sir Duncan McDonald

As managing director of Bruce Peehles, power station equip-ment engineers, as chief executive of Reyrolle Parsons. switch-gear engineers, and as chairman of Northern Engineering Industries. Duncan Mc-Donald had more in common with his heroes Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-59), Daniel Gooch (1816-89) and the great Victorian engincer-managers. than modern industrialistaccountant managers who work in terror of slick stockmarket analysts and the havoc they may cause. It is perhaps an indication of how industrial perceptions have changed in the last quarter of a century, not necessarily for the better, that Me-Donald told me proudly: "I have raised the number of people working for us in our companies to nearly 35,000." He would not like to have said: "I have cut the workforce, becoming more cost-effective and have done x per cent better than last year."

What McDonald cared about, explained Hamish Morrison, former chief executive of the Scottish Council of Development and Industry, was giving people worthwhile engineering work which would give them job satisfaction and be useful to society and Britain. I never did discern what McDonald's personal politics were, but frequently sitting beside him on the Edinhurgh-London plane I came to know that he had an obcame to know the had sessive horror of human waste

and a demonic energy in trying to do something about it by providing skilled jobs.

He was a passionate power en-gineer who believed, above all else, that the prime mover in the power station, the turbine, had to be perfect. If not there would be many other problems. He motivated people, who recognised that he knew where every proverbial nut and bolt should go in the burning instrument. I saw at first hand how he was admired on account of his engineering ex-pertise and an ability to understand the complexities of any task being carried out by his employees. On many occasions, I went round the Bruce Pechles plant at Broxburn, West Lothian with him as the local MP and sensed the respect in which he was held by shop-floor and junior managers alike. Shirt-sleeved and immaculate, he made a point of knowing everyone in the factory by name. The result was that when the transformer industry was undergoing periods of traumatic change in the 1960s and 1970s, he was given cooperation by the Amalgamated

Engineering Union. Soft-spoken, with a twinkle in his eye, McDonald's philosophy was that huge problems, technical and human, were there to be addressed quietly, unostentatiously and

South of Scotland Electricity

Board, now Scottish Power.

During his childhood in Inverkeithing he had been in-spired by Sir John Fowler's wonderful cantilevers. Whenever I saw him he would say to me as the MP for South Queensferry, "Are you looking after my hridge properly? Are you sure that rust, which never

sleeps, is not getting a hold?"
He was an inspiration to those of us who campaign for properly maintaining the greatest engi-neering monument to the 19th century. It was a great pleasure to him when the company of Sir William Arrol was added to his Northern Engineering con-glomerate since Arrol had been the structural engineers responsible in the 1890s for the

Forth Bridge's construction. In the early years of the Second World War he obtained first class honours in electrical engineering at Edinburgh University, and went on reserved occupation as a graduate ap-prentice to British Thompson Houston at Rugby. When the war ended, BTH earmarked him for research and development in transformer design which suited his talents perfectly. In 1954 he transferred to

Bruce Peebles Industries and hecame their chief transformer designer from 1954 to 1959, when he was promoted as chief engineer. In 1962 he became managing director, and in 1974 chairman and chief executive. both of Bruce Peebles and of Reyrolle Parsons. Boh Smith, Bruce Peebles' quality and safe-

ty manager, who worked with him from 1954, described Mc-Donald as "superb during the difficult mergers of Bruce Peehles. Reyrolle Parsons and Clark Chapman. He respected the identity of Bruce Peebles and kept it as a core large transformer unit, thereby helping the morale of the workforce. Equally the managers of Rey-rolle Parsons and Clark Chapman were pleased at the dignity

His relations with employees were further enhanced by the fact that he was a keen fly fisherman and a regular member of the Bruce Peebles fishing club. Many good relationships were formed on the banks of Scottish rivers at the expense of trout.

he accorded them.

He was particularly interest-ed in developments for nuclear power-stations and was elected to the board of the National Nuclear Corporation. Truth to tell, he was always ambiguous about nuclear power at a time when great efficiencies were being made in the winning of fossil fuel. He was impressed by the advanced gas-cooled reactors and praised Dr Rohin Jeffery's engineering feat in the creation of Torness. He was less enthusiastic about both the Magnox stations and the problems of Dungeness B and elsewhere among the next generation of

For ten years (1983-92) Mc-Donald was on the board of Scottish Accident, whose chairman, the Earl of Airlie, told me

nuclear power-stations. ·



McDonald welcomes Margaret Thatcher to Northern Engineering Industries' plant in the 1980s

he had had exceptionally cordial

Industry. Though it was common knowledge that he had been of-

Council, it was also characteris-

yesterday: "He was much loved not only on the board but by managers and their colleagues. He had a wonderful way with people. He put his points in a ay that was most acceptable."

McDonald was a decentraliser by conviction and in his lat-ter years felt that running a great company out of Newcastle put him at a disadvantage with those of his competitors whose headquarters could intermingle with vernment in London. He felt hurt that the metropolitan stock-market was never kind to Northern Engineering Industries and

they were some kind of sleepy tic that he resisted a strong per-set-up in the outback rather sonal temptation on the grounds that the chairman of this presthan a great international company at the cutting edge of tech-nology – in the 1980s they had a £700m turnover. He always ex-tolled the virtues of the Scottish tigious body ought to be based Scotland and not in the North of England.
Duncan McDonald was a Office in Edinburgh with whom

man of international vision and travelled the world in search of relations. It was characteristic of orders to keep his employees in work. In February 1985, in the. McDonald that he made time to company of such heavyweights as Lord King of British Airways, Richard Giordano of British return from Newcastle to Edinburgh for meetings of the Scot-tish Council of Development and Oxygen and Denis Jackson of Rolls-Royce he was one of ten prominent industrialists who fered the chair of the Scottish went under the leadership of

Lord Young, then Mrs Thatch-

er'a Minister without Portfolio, to China. He was the first man I knew to emphasise the po-tential of the Pacific Rim. His hallmark was vision.

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Duncan McDonald, turbine engineer and industrialist: born Inverkeithing, Fife 20 September 1921; CBE 1976; Group Managing Director, Northern Engi-neering Industries 1977-80, Chairman 1980-86; Kt 1983; married 1955 Jane Guckian (three sons, one daughter); died Edinburgh 23 February 1997.

T. H. Bridgewater

Tony Bridgewater encompassed in his own life and career the development of British television as we now know it.

BBC colleagues called him [not even his mother used his given name of Thornton), started working with John Logie Baird in 1928. He was involved with Baird's early experimental television transmissions of the 3tt-line mechanical system which went from his studio in Covent Garden via Savoy Hill to a BBC medium-wave radio transmitter on the roof of

They had to take place after the BBC's late-night dance music had closed down. Because there was only one transmitter available the crude flickering pictures and the sound could not be synchronised and had to be radiated in alternating twominute bursts. In 1932 when the

two other television engineers, joined the Corporation. The operation moved into the newly huilt Broadcasting House and Tony, or Bridgey as many Bridgewater often announced the programmes himself from a studio shared with Henry Hall's dance hand.

In 1936 he led the studio team at Alexandra Palace when the world's first public service of high-definition television opened. Baird's mechanical system, by then on 240 lines, alternated weekly with the 405-line electronic system developed by EMI to establish which was the better. In a few months EMI was the clear winner. The mechanical system was dropped, to Baird's bitter

disappointment.
Bridgewater supervised, and rsonally directed, the first BBC television outside broadcast: the 1937 Coronation procession of King George VI as it passed Hyde Park Corner. bility for these experimental The hrand-new mobile control programmes Bridgewater, with room had been delivered from the King's smile to the close-up grateful for this when we were in 1930, long before it became valves, and was thrilled to be radar, for which he was men." 28 February 1997.



John Logie Baird Photograph: BBC

EMI only days beforehand. There was momentary panic when the equipment went dead just as the Coronation procession approached. There was no time for anything but that classic television remedy, a strong bang from the fist of one of the EMI engineers standing

he engineering aspects of many BBC outside broadcasts remembered by older viewers with admiration: the 1948 Olympic Games, the first television programme from across the Channel, the Coronation of the Queen, her first Christmas television broadcast from Sandringham, the immensely complicated and moving coverage of Sir Winston Churchill's funeral and countless other ceremonies and great sporting events. He organised television hroadcasts from submarines below the surface of the sea and from aeroplanes above the surface of the land.

Bridgewater was kind, considerate and courteous. One of his outstanding qualities as an engineer was his ability to explain electronic complexities

camera made the next day's together involved in planning e introduction of BBC2 with Bridgewater was in charge of its formidable problems of conversion to 625-line UHF transmission standards and as well as to colour capability. Bill Cotton used to say that before coming to work at White City he not only didn't understand television, he didn't even understand electricity, until Bridgey ex-

plained both to him.

Bridgewater retired from the BBC in 1968, having been the Chief Television Engineer for the previous six years. His work for television, however, was far from over. He lectured and wrote articles for various technical journals and also contributed a scholarly monograph on A.A. Campbell Swinton, a leading pioncer of electronic, as opposed to mechanical, television. This was published by the Royal Television Society, to which he gave outstanding service over a great period. He had been elected a

Royal. He was its Honorary Treasurer for 20 years, its Chairman of Council, and the recipient of its Gold Medal. In latter years Bridgewater's

long and unique personal ex-perience of the development of television made him a particularly valuable founder member of the RTS History and Archives Specialist Group, He remembered all sorts of fascinating and sometimes horrifying details. One day when we were discussing the Imperma-nence of recorded television material he casually mentioned that in the very early days of videotape he happened to know of at least one pre-recorded play and one pre-recorded opera which had been accidentally

wiped before transmission. Tony Bridgewater's interest in broadcasting hegan as a schoolboy in Canada where his family was temporarily living. He

able to pick up signals from the United States. On return to England he was trained in wireless telegraphy and at the age of 18 he went to sea as a wire-less operator. He then worked for the Post Office on high pow-er transmitters including those occasionally used for broad-

casting to the Dominions, as they then were. He read the technical journals avidly, and learnt of Baird's television experiments. In 1928 he managed to get an intro-duction to the Scottish inventor, who was beginning to expand from a one-man business. Baird engaged him and within weeks he was involved with Baird's first demonstration of recognisable, if very crude, colour television to the British Association,

meeting that year in Glasgow. On 1 September 1939 Alexandra Palace abruptly had to cease transmitting television; for tioned in dispatches. On de-mobilisation, with the rank of Squadron Leader, he rejoined the BBC to help restart television in time for the Victory Parade in June 1946.

Tony Bridgewater's own con-siderable scholarship came, he used to say, from association with a well-educated wife. He married Jean Bartlett in 1934 and they had one son, Anthony, She died on 18 September 1985, a year after they had celebrated their golden wedding. In 1993, shortly after his 85th birthday, he was made a Doctor of Bradford University in recognition of his services to television.

Leonard Miall

Thornton Howard Bridgewater, television engineer born 1 June 1908; engineer in charge of out-side broadcasts, BBC Television 1946-62, Chief Engineer 1962-68: by. Fortunately it worked, and non-engineers. I was particularly Fellow of the Television Society and then a better one with joined the RAF and worked on Bartlett (died 1935; one son); died

Isabelle Lucas

A prolific stage actress during a career that spanned 30 years of West End musicals such as Gone With the Wind and the original National Theatre production of Peter Nichols's acerbic comedy The National Health, Isabelle Lucas won more widespread recognition on television in the Seventies, as Norman Beaton's wife in The Fosters, Britain's first all-black situation comedy. More recently, she appeared in the allfriction soap opera EastEnders as the disapproving mother of hlack lesbian hairdresser Della Alexander.

Born in Canada in 1927, she

was the daughter of a chef from Barbados who worked on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Lucas acted in amateur productions as a teenager in Toronto before moving to London in 1954 to train as a singer. The following year, she made her West End stage début in the revue The Jazz Train at the Piccadilly Theatre, a production that also gave Bertice Reading one of her early successes.

Lucas went on to carve out a distinguished musicals career that included appearances alongside Elisabeth Welch and Millicent Martin in The Crooked Mile (1959), and as

Barbra Streisand's maid. Emma, in Funny Girl and Mammy in Harold Fielding's acclaimed production of Gone With the Wind (1972). Her last stage musical role was alongside the vaudeville star Jack Gilford in Look to the Rainbow (1985), but the actress's other West End roles included appearances in the straight play The Genius and the Goddess (adapted from an Aldous Huxley novel, 1962) and the Neil Simon comedy The Sunshine Boys (1975).

Other landmarks in Lucas's stage career included playing the first black Martha in Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia

merchairman, Eaton Ltd, 83; Rear-

Admiral Sir Charles Darlington, for-

Woolf? at the Connaught Theatre, Worthing, and her first appearance with Norman Beaton, in the musical Bakerloo to Paradise (1969), which failed to make an impact and did not reach the West End. With the National Theatre, she acted in George Bernard Shaw's Back to Methuselah (alongside Derek Jacobi, 1969) and the world premiere of The National Health (1969), both at the Old Vic, as well as Cyrano (Cambridge Theatre, 1970) and Tyger (New Theatre, 1971, with Norman Beaton and Maureen Lipman).

When she was cast as the

Leader of the Bacchantes in the

victory by taking to the stage carefully draped. She also acted Florrie in *Trinidad Sisters* (Donmar Warehouse, 1988), Mustapha Matura's black version of Chekhov's The Three Sisters, and the Nurse in Dame Judi Dench's production of Romeo and Julies (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, 1993), her final stage performance. Her few feature films in-

The Bacchae, Lucas objected to

Sir Peter Hall's insistence that

all the female characters should

appear nude and won a partial

cluded Miracle in Soho (starring John Gregson, 1957) and Out-

National Theatre production of land (alongside Sean Connery, 1981), but it was as Pearl Foster in two series of The Fosters (1976-77) on television that Lucas gained screen popularity. She and the celebrated hlack actor Norman Beaton, as her. husband Samuel, played the parents of a South London immigrant family. Among those playing their three children were the comedian Lenny Henry and the actress Sharon Rosita.

Lucas also played "bald, hlack, lesbian mother" Velma in the sitcom Agony (1979); Pearl, one of the staff at Ashvale Advertising, in two series of My

Husband and I (1987-88); Gertrade in the children's series Bluebirds, starring Barbara Windsor, two characters in EastEnders - a district nurse 1985, and nine years later Al-ice Alexander, who found it difficult to come to terms with her daughter Della's revelation that she was gay - and an old flame of the Peckham barber Desmond in the Channel 4 sitcom Desmond's (reuniting her with Norman Beaton). She also made appearances in the television film A Caribbean Mystery (1983) and the mini-series El-

lis Island (1984). Anthony Hayward



Isabelle Harriet Lucas, actress: bom Toronto, Canada 3 December 1927; married 1957 Maurice Jennings; died Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey 24 Febru-

Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

CASEY: On 21 February, to Carot Lawson, wife of Adrian Casey, a daughter, Charlotte Jane Lawson

DEATHS

CHIANG: Gerry Yuk Cho, Born 30 October 1961 in Hong Kong, passed away 13 February 1997, he is survived by his toving france, Pauline, and his loving family in Vancouver, BC, Canada, Private services will be held.

OEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 n line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

TODAN Prince Edward, President, attends a screening of A Journey of a Letter and The Gaugerbread House by the Uniden's Flan Unit at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, London WI; and opens the Relaysism Arts, London WI; and opens the finance. Fill Studies. Hampton Wick, Surrey. The Princess Royal. Patron. Scot-itch Rugby Union, attends the Scotland treland international Match at Murrayfield Stadium. Edinburgh. The Duke of Kent-buron, the South Bank Foundation, at tends a concert by the Victua Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Royal Festival Hall. Lon-ton SEI.

Changing of the Gunrd TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mor ed Regiment mounts the Ouern's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham. TO-MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Otteen' Mounted Regiment into the total Name F.
Company Scots Gnards mounts the Outen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11,38am, hand provided by the ColdMarriages

Mr C. G. O'Farrett and Miss N. C. Mayersberg

The marriage took place on Friday 28 February at St James Norland's Church, St James's Gardens, London W11, between Charles O'Farrell, el-dest son of Mr and Mrs George O'Farrell, of Wamberal, New South Wales, and Natasha Mayersherg, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul May-ersberg, of Chelsea, London, The bride was given in marriage by her

Birthdays TODAY: Mr Harry Belafonte, actor and entertainer, 70; Mr David

Broome, show jumper, 57; Mr Dou-glas Bunn, founder, All-England Jumping Course, Hickstead, 69; Mr Niget Cowley, cricketer, 44; Mr Roger Dalirey, singer and actor, 53; Mr Andrew Faulds, actor and MP, 74; Sir Allan Green QC, former Direc-tor of Public Prosecutions, 62: Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces. Central Europe, 79: Mr Martyn Jones MP. 50: Sir Michael Kerr, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 76; Professor James Lister, paedia-trician, 74; Mr Mike Read, disc jockev. 46; Commandant Dame Nancy Robertson, former director of the WRNS, 88; Mr David Scon Cowper, solo yachtsman, 55; Mark Todd, athlete, 41; Maj-Gen Philip Tower, for-mer Commandant. Royal Military Academy, 80: Mr Brian Waites, golfer, 57: Sir Gerald When, chief executive. Racal Telecom pic and

Vidatore Group, 70. TOMORROW: Ms Pai Arrowsmith, peace campaigner, 67: Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 50: Mr Harry Blech, founder of the London Mozart Players. 87; Lady Moyra Browne, former superintendent, St John Ambutance Brigade, 79; Sir Leonard Crossland, farmer and for-

mer Director of the Naval Education Service, 87: Lord Elion, former govemment minister, 67; Mr John Gardner, composer, 80; Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, former presideot of the Soviet Union, 66; Sir Donald Gosling, joint chairman, National Car Parks Lid. 68; Mr Ronald Groves, former chairman, Meyer International 77; Lord Howie of Troon, engineer, publisher and journalist, 73; Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, 74; Dame Naomi James, vachtswoman, 48: Mr Nicholas Jarrold, ambassador 10 Latvia, 51; Miss Jennifer Jones, actress, 78: Sir John Manduell, comooser, and former Principal, Royal Northern College of Music, 69; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster, Clifton College. 47; Mr Robert Simpson, composer, 76: Mr John Tusa, man-aging director, Barbican Centre. 61: Mr John Peter Rhys Williams, rugby player and surgeon, 48; Mr tan

Woosnam, golfer, 39

Anniversaries TODAY: 8lrths: Frédéric-François Chopin, composer, 1810; Lytton Giles Strachey, author and biogra-pher, 1880; Alton Glenn Miller, bandleader, 1904. Deaths: Thomas Campion, poet and composer, 1620: Mack Gordon (Morris Gütler), lyri-Mack Cordon (Morris Unifier), by-cist, 1959; Jackie Coogan, actor, 1984. On this day: 1,200 French Huguenots were massacred at Vassy, 1562; the Specturor was first pub-lished, 1711; slavery was abolished by Pennsylvania, the tirst US state to do so, 1780. Today is the Feast Day of St Aubin or Albinus of Angers, St David or Dewi, St Felix III, Pope, St Rudesind or Rosendo and St

TOMORROW: Births: Sir Thoma

Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Li-brary, 1545; Bodrich Smetana, com-

poser, 1824; Kurt Julian Weill, composer, 1900. Deaths: John Wesley, founder of Methodism, 1791; David Herbert Lawrence, oovelist, 1930; Howard Carter, painter and Egyptologist, 1939. On this day: an attempt was made by Robert Maclean to assassinate Queen Victoria, 1882; the French prototype Concorde made its first test flight, 1969. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Chad or Caedda, St Joavan of Brittany and The Martyrs under the Lombards.

Lectures TODAY

Victoria and Albert Museum: Gareth Williams, "The Frank Lloyd Wright Room", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Corinth in Context (i)", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Willia

"Thorvaldsen in Rome 1797-1838: the Scandinavian Canova?", 1.15pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twohig "Commen Tate: Luciano Fabro"

Luncheons

Foreign and Comm Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Sec relary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at 1 Carlion Gar-dens, London SW1, in honour of Mr Yevgeny Primakov. Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Dinners

St David's Day London Welsh Celebration Sir John Meurig Thomas FR5 was the guest of honour at the 94th St David's Day Celebration Banquet

held vesterday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London WI, Mr Alun Thomas presided and spoke.

ponent is a heretic, a bigot, or a happyclappy, it is irrelevant what they do. Their character is indelibly stamped. And the same principle applies to praise: there are certain standards which function both as benchmarks for good behaviour and as rallying flags in a struggle with the forces of darkness; and one of the most pernicious of these is the Judaeo-Christian tradition. It made its most recent appearance in

Dr Jonathan Sacks's articles plugging a forthcoming book earlier this week in what the Daily Telegraph used to call "another newspaper". He finished with a ringing endorsement of "the Indaeo-Christian tradition, predicated on the sanctity of life, the priority of right over might, and the imperatives of justice and compassion for the vulnerable and disenfranchised, [which] has survived for almost 4,000 years, while the great empires which persecuted its adherents have crumbled and vanished".

Seldom can so much nonsense have been summoned in support of a noble ideal. What exactly is this Judaeo-Christian tradition? There is undoubtedly an Abrahamic tradinion: a line of descent in three of the world's great religious from the Old Testament. Is-lam, Christianity and Judaism all acknowledge a common descent from the myths of Abraham, and all pay allegiance to the Ten Commandments. This has not prevented any of these religions from persecuting the others when they had the chance. On the contrary, the common descent of Judaism and Christianity is integral to the history of Chris-

tian anti-Semitism. As far as f know, the idea of a specifically "Judaeo-Christian" branch is an im-

The art of propaganda lies in nouns, not faith greason verbs. Once you have said that your op-

Putting noble ideals into ancient religions

Christians have been persecuting Jews for 2,000 years, which makes Dr Jonathan Sacks's recent praise for a Judaeo-Christian tradition' all the more puzzling. What exactly is it? asks Andrew Brown.

port from America, where it has only really become popular in the last 50 years. It would have made very little sense to speak of this tradition before the Holocaust, and little political sense to speak of it before the establishment of the state of Israel. In the context of American politics, where there is a powerful fundamentalist lobby that manages to combine theoretical anti-Semitism with practical pro-Zionism in the interests of hastening Armageddon, this idea

makes perfect sense. But it is a strange thing to set up as a moral authority. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all function as moral traditions; and all of them are religious which have learnt, developed, and preserved a great deal about the pur-poses of human life. But almost all of this has been in progress away from their common roots in the Bronze Age proscriptions of a jealous God. Dr Sacks describes the tradition as "predicated on the sanctity of human life": I do not see how anyone parts. From the extermination of every liv- and not as he says.

ing thing outside the ark to the ethnic cleansing of the promised land, the story

is one of utter disregard for human life except when it suits God's purposes.

The religious imagination is an extraordinarily fertile and creative faculty which can bring love and justice out of the most unpromising soil. But there is no use pretending that the Pentateuch is terribly promising soil. In a sense this makes the moral achievement of the Jews so much greater, it does not license anyone to preach on the excellence of the Jen ommandments as a sort of constitution

document for modern society. The second part of Dr Sacks's trope also invites examination: the tradition, he says has survived for almost 4,000 years, while the great empires which persecuted its adherents have crimbled and vanished." At first sight this has a wonderful resonance, especially from the Jewish point of view. The Jews have inspiringly survived 4,000 years. The trouble is that for nearly half of that period their main persecutors have been Christians: what price the

"Judaeo-Christian" heritage there?"
Talking about a "Judaeo-Christian" tra-Talking about a "Judaco-Christian" tra-dition is wrong and misleading, above all because it ignores what traditions actual-ly are they are not prescriptions which can be read off and applied. They must be lived to be understood. It is a familiar argument, against feligion that people can act vilely from the most beautiful ideals. But the opposite difficulty is just as great, that people will act virtuously as a consequence of horrendous théories. I have no doubt that Dr Sacks is an excellent man, and his famcould come fresh to the Bible and see any ily an engine of virtue. But if we wish to regard for human life at all in the early removalise society, we should do as he does.

مكذا من الأصل

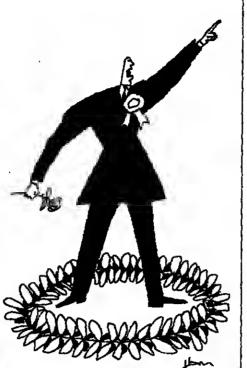
It's time for Labour to loosen its tongue

n the thesaurus, you soon get from Europe. To whoops of delight from the Murmountain" - what the Tories have now doch press, Sir James Goldsmith would find to climb to get anywhere near winning the election - to "bluff", what that party's spinners and spokespeople are going to be doing a lot of this weekend. Imagine you are huddling in a Central Office committee room. What are your options as you confront the by-election's arithmetic of voting shares and turn-out? You could go for broke, unseat your Prime Minister and make a fresh start (though it is hard to see where the proverbial men in suits could be found, and what they would do if John Major rounded on them with one of his favourite expletives). But even if you replaced the leader, you would still face the intractability of the Thries' problem: Europe. What is the point of a new leader unless he also offers a fresh start on Europe?

Stage right, voices urge that the Tories' electoral mountain would be so much easier to climb carrying the Union flag. Like an ex-smoker who can see the packet on the shelf, the Tory party has been eyeing the nationalist option. It admires the wrapping, even counts the cigarettes, but, so far, has resisted lighting up. With good reason. Euro-scepticism would swiftly give way to outright rejection of union with the rest of

his clothes rifled. The Tories would lose their Chancellor and provoke a lurid split in their parliamentary ranks. For what? The idea that Europe can be turned, at this stage, into an election winner - a phantasm. There is no winning "independence" margin out there in the psephological thickets. No, anti-Europe sounds like a suicide letter read out at an inquest, not an election victory strategy. The Tories will some day have to face the European battle in their own ranks, but not yet. Opposition - powerlessness - is the place for settling scores and refining new identities. The party's best bet is to soldier on. It is a national interest, too. Whatever happens to single money, whatever reshaping occurs to and within the European Union, Britain's future is "European", and no political formation contending for parliamentary power can be anything else.

Labour, corseted in its self-control, was quick yesterday to present itself as anything but complacent. Its spokesmen are wellschooled in their humility. That is genuinely not the risk facing Labour. The risk, rather, is that voters will be deprived of a proper election campaign. Labour understandably wants to avoid putting a foot wrong. Garru-



lous John Prescott could give lessons to the Cosa Nostra these days. For team manager Tony Blair, the tactic is definitely catenaccio. But the overwhelming victory in the Wirral, on top of a huge opinion-poll lead, suggests that Labour's election strategists do not need to be so transfixed by their 1992 horror. Of course, there are lessons from previous defeat. It is clearly sensible to steer Tony Bian a million miles away from a Sheffield rally of the kind that so embarrassed Neil Kinnock. But fear of talking itself into danger may now risk Labour talking too little. Commendable determination to avoid making promises to the electorate that cannot be delivered could end up with a failure to communicate with the electorate at all.

This is not about posters and soundbites or the instant rebuttals and "clarifications" that Labour - all credit to the professionalism of its operation - has turned into a fine art. Nor is it about presenting bills of fare and inviting the electorate to tick its heart's desire. The paradox is that Tony Blair and his party are now so far ahead that they can afford to have a frank and open conversation with voters. Indeed, they would benefit by doing so, and so would our democracy.

This huge lead could be an excuse for Mr Blair and his colleagues to slam down the

hatches, dive dive dive, order battle silence. and then surface to celebrate watching the whole Tory fleet go down around them. But what about the rest of us? We want - need - to know what Labour intends in power. Instead of clamming up. Labour should open up - use its advantage to prepare us for Blair's Britain. Warn us about the difficulties that lie ahead. Invite us to understand the harder choices that must be made. Voters will, if anything, feel flattered at not being taken for granted. And they will be less shocked when Labour in power turns out to have a new and unexpected face. Good government will mean educating people about how much can be afforded, and what a government can accomplish, over how long.

Lahour should behave like an agent who has won the contract, but needs to show how keen she is to close the sale. Voters are clearly saying they want a change. But government is not just about laying out a pitch. making sure to keep your tie straight and never saying anything except the obvious. It is about re-educating a country in Labour's view of the potential for change. Wirral South means Labour can anticipate government with some confidence. It shows that Labour has done enough to get elected. Enough, however, is not enough.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Nato is breaking Major's 'informal' promise to the Russians

Sir: Dr Dunrabin of St Edmund Hall, Oxford (letter, 24 February) mistakes the occasion and character of the West's undertaking not to advance Nato eastwards.

It was made during discussions about the reunification of Germany, by John Major as Foreign Secretary and James Baker as US Secretary of State. Unfortunately for the Russians

it was made "informally", not written down or recorded in any subsequent aide-mémoire, let alone treaty, and therefore neither the British nor the American government consider

themselves bound by it.

I put down a question in the House of Lords about this, after Russian officials had begun complaining about it -including Mr Gorbachev in

London last year - and the answer came from the Foreign Office that there was no "formal undertaking". There was no denial of the informal undertaking, of which the Russians have apparently produced a rather confused tape.

That the Russians should bave thought an Englishman's - or an American's -word might still be his

bond showed naïvety and a lack of diplomatic professionalism. All the same, there is a sense of betrayal, and it is no wonder they are not too keen now on any simple "political charter" with Nato which might turn out no more binding than this other "political" undertaking, Lord KENNET House of Lords



Man at arms: Lord Armstrong (right foreground) during the visit of the US general Ulysses S Grant (fifth from left) to Armstrong's Elswick works. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in 1877. In the background is a 100-ton muzzle-loading 17.72-inch gun Photograph: Vickers Defence Systems works, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in 1877. In the background is a 100-ton muzzle-loading 17.72-inch gun

Sir: Stephen Goodwin reports (22 February) that W G Armstrong was "suspected of pirating" the Victorian gun barrel design of Captain Alexander Blakely. This "tale of murky dealing in the arms trade" seems more appropriate to a Tod Slaughter melodrama than to

historical fact. Armstrong addressed the problem of artillery design at the request of the Duke of Newcastle, Minister of War, in December 1854. This was because of the poor performance of the almost medieval British field guns during the Crimean War. Armstrong, aged 44, had already achieved fame because of his interventions in the field of hydraulics and for his researches into static electricity.

By 1858. Armstrong had produced British guilt over

Sir. Thomas Sutcliffe (article, 27 February) suggests that the restitution of another country's cultural treasures "should not be decided by reasons of politics ... but by a free competition of reverence".

the Benin bronzes

Where the Benin bronzes are concerned it is indeed the issue of "reverence" that so exercises Africanists and the Nigerian government. Not only are the hronze unique, but they are the finest example of casting in the "lost wax" technique anywhere in the world.

Sutcliffe then points out that they would have much less value in Lagos than they do here and that to send them to Lagos would be to "deplete their power". The bronzes were not taken from Lagos but from Benin City, capital of the once independent state of Benia. In that city stands a large, reverently maintained museum, many of its walls hung with photographs of the bronzes that adom the walls of Western museums. A visit to Benin museum leaves any Western visitor with an overwhelming feeling of guilt and sadness. NIGEL EVANS London W4

Tales from the Victorian arms bazaar

and proven in trials against six rival designs - a revolutionary field artillery system, the notable features of which were breech loading, polygroove rifling and elongated, fused projectiles. The metallurgy was important, and Armstrong undertook much research into the technology of barrel construction. Essentially, he adopted a steel liner on to which were shrunk layers of wrought iron: a technique already well established in the manufacture

of small-calibre guns. Mr Goodwin reports that Blakely's claims were refuted by Armstrong's family. However, Armstrong was aged only 58, with 32 more years to live, when Blakely died, so he would

have responded to claims of a scandal in person. I went through all his many surviving papers and correspondence before producing a biography in 1983. There is no evidence that he secretly borrowed Blakely's ideas.

Armstrong's patents covered more than just barrel construction. By giving them to the government, he lost substantially, since the government set up its own establishment to make guns to his design. His order book dried up immediately and the ordnance part of his business survived only through exports. PETER MCKENZIE Vickers Defence Systems Newcastle-upon-Time

Sir: The contention that arms sales enable Britain to "punch above its weight in diplomacy" ignores the reality of the contemporary global arms market ("British lion claws a king-sized stake in the world's arms hazaar", 26 Fehruary). The increasingly competitive scramble for defence contracts in the post-Cold War era bas made the world's arms bazaar a buyer's, rather than a seller's market. Importers are not only able to agrange favourable economic agreements: they can also exert political leverage, so eager are the exporting nations to retain contracts in the shrinking global market. LIZ CLEGG Arms Trade Programme Co-ordinator

Saferworld London WC1

Children from poor homes thrive at fee-paying schools

Sir: I hope the information Mr I M Perry imparts to his students is more accurate than the figures be quotes in his letter referring to the Assisted Places Scheme (26 February).
The current cost of the scheme,

which helps academically able children from low-income families to attend independent schools, is £117m, not £200m. Next year, as the scheme expands, it will be £141m. The doubling of the number of pupils in the scheme will be

achieved over several years if there is no change of government. Nor is this an "enormous state subsidy" to schools, which could fill their oversubscribed places with full fee-

Almost 40,000 children currently benefit. They come from families with an average annual household income of only £10,900. They demonstrate the wisdom of the investment in their education by achieving outstanding examination results; research last year indicated

that they do better by up to three Alevel grades than their contemporaries of similar abilities

in other kinds of schools. Underfunding of other parts of the education service should not be corrected by denying opportunity to tens of thousands of children from poor families. DAVID WOODHEAD National Director Independent Schools Information

London SWI

Keep in lane and stay on the side of the angels

Sir: You report (27 February) a 28 per cent drop in accidents on the busiest section of the M25 after the introduction of variable speed limits, which discourage lane-changing. The method of driving thus encouraged -staying in lane - is the opposite of that favoured by PG Russell-Smith (letter, 25 February). Those of us who stay most of the time in the middle lane of a motorway, instead of

swinging constantly between lanes I and 2 may be on the side of the angels even if we have no God-given right. I didn't find motorway driving in France and Germany any safer than

in Britain. **NIGEL SEYMER** Lower Slaugher, Gloucestershire

Sir. May I point out to PG Russell-Smith that if I maintain 70mph, it is

indeed my God-given right to drive from London to Newcastle in the middle lane of the motorway. There's no point in ducking and weaving between groups of slower vehicles. And if Mr Russell-Smith sat 500 yards behind me at 70mph we would all get there safely and at the maximum legal speed. SOLDFIELD London W3

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL (Fac: 8171-293 2856; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Send down the clones

Sir, Fay Weldon's suggestion, cited by Andrew Marr ("Galileo, Copernicus-and now Dolly!", 26 February), that the great and the good should one day be rewarded with cloning permits. leads me to hope that the long-running "nature versus nurture" debate may one day be ended by the speciacle of a eminent judge being obliged to send to prison, for numerous crimes, a delinquent young clone of himself. SIMON DAY

Sir: Any engineer will tell you that it is (relatively) easy to design a product such as an aircraft or a computer program that will do what it is intended to do. It is much more difficult to ensure that it doesn't do what it is not intended to do.

By all means clone living creatures, but just because one sheep has been successiuliy test-flown does not mean that some future cloning experiments will not lead to catastrophic crashes. Professor CHARLES HUGHES Felixstowe, Suffolk

Sir: Human cloning would eliminate the need for men, but not for women. Would this be a good thing? ROBERT A SANDOW London W4

Living folk arts of England

Sir: The belief that canal boat art is the only surviving indigenous folk art in England is erroneous (report, 21 February). The "dressing" of crooks, cleeks and market sticks with ramshorn, beated, pressed and carved, has been practised for many enerations.

Ramshorn has been used in many ountries for providing the book at the top of the shepherd's crook but in England the farms were large enough to support a full-time shepherd. The long winter evenings gave time for the shepherd slowly to compress and bend the born into shape, over the tall "chimney" oil lamp. Carving the born into animal shapes followed.

There are about a thousand members of the British Stickmakers Guild, who, during the summer months, at agricultural fairs, hold best stick competitions. Mercifully. the art world and academia have taken little notice of this craft, practised by the untulored and unselfconscious in garden sheds and barns. PETER MASKENS Hornchurch, Essex

Sir: Derbyshire well-dressing still continues, and involves production of mosaic pictures inlaid on moist clay with flower petals, leaves and other natural materials. Another surviving English folk art, also ephemeral, is the "sanding" of streets in Knutsford, Cheshire on Knutsford Royal May Day. This involves men with bags of dyed sand creating mottoes and patterns on the ground. ALEXANDER CHABLO Manchester

Rough justice

Sir: As a national serviceman in the Royal Pioneer Corps in the Fifties 1 was frequently involved in preparing paperwork for courts martial ("MoD braced as judges outlaw courts martial". 26 February).

They all had three things in common. The prosecuting officer was an intelligent, amhitious captain (he became a hrigadier). The defence was conducted by a rather gormless National Service second lieutenant, I don't recall anyone being found not guilty. IOHN AULTON Alcester, Warwickshire

LETTER from THE EDITOR

Tere is a minor dilemma of the kind that faces all newspapers. On Thursday evening, we "knew" the result of the Wirral by-election.

Opinion polling can be wrong. but for the Conservatives to have held the seat, the polls would have bad to have been wildly, extraordinarily, massively wrong. All the ordinary evidence, culled from weeks of reporting, canvassing and analysing, would have had to have been equally out. We also knew that our early pre-result editions would he read by people who had heard figures on radio or television.

So the dilemma was this; did we run a story saying "Labour wins Wirral", which was true (but not yet): or one saying Labour hopes to win Wirral". which would have been safe, but would have looked unbearably wet and ignorant the next morning? After heated discussion, we went for "New Labour motors home", above a picture of the cheery candidate and his wife in the back of their car. Clear enough. But what if the polls were wrong, went the cry. Well, said the sub-editor, we could always say it meant, "New Labour motors home ... to London to work out what went wrong in the Wirral by-elec-tion." This ranks as the least convincing journalistic alibi heard in the office this year.

ing this one, have a slightly flattened, smudgy look? Knowing people tell me it's the "bundler". the print site machine which parcels papers up. This week I went to our Watford print site to see The Independent thunder through the presses. I was struck by the glossy, pin-sharp freshness of the colour and words when they first emerged, slightly damp and warm. smelling, to an editor's nose, bener than new hread. So what happens? The bundler, a harmless looking creature, is not the culprit. It is simply that the papers are stacked in lorries for hours, and the weight presses down on the colour and print. They look flattened because they have been. I just thought you'd like to

Why do all newspapers, includ-

One of the odder, but more enjoyable meetings of the week was breakfast with the Serbian

opposition leaders who have swamped the streets of Belgrade with pro-democracy demonstrations for many weeks. The hearded and charismatic Vuk Draskovic, a man straight from Dostoevsky, told droll tales about the effects of dictatorship on his fellow countrymen. One was a deep-seated fear of people in power and a corresponding caution about voting. Recently, Drashovic had visited a rich supporter and found his house filled with portraits of himself. The man was flattering, generous and scathing about the Serb regime. But he wound up the meeting

by warning: "I will not vote for 'Labour hopes to win Wirral' would have been the safe headline. but it would have looked unbearably wet and ignorant the next morning

you. I vote for Milosevic.' When Vuk asked why, the businessman nervously but firmly replied: "I will not vote for you until you are elected."

Lunch at a television company included a short discussion about cloning and medicine. Another guesi was Ken Livingstone, who worked as a theatre assistant in a London hospital in the Sixties. He told a chilfing story. Apparently, back then, a high proportion of people who had open heart surgery mysteriously died during the operation. Eventually, an American doctor utteried whether it was entirely sensible to use the eight to 10 pints of blood needed for the operation straight from the fridge. The global medical equivalent of a stunned silence followed. Across the world. patients had simply been chilled to death. Once hospitals started warming the blood, the death rate fell dramatically. Never let it be said that this column fails to find something to hrighten your Saturday morning.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

At the roots of his hostility to her [Margaret Thatcher] is a macho streak which sees only a subservient role for women. however talented, and a resemment that a woman achieved the supreme office which he coveted and which was denied him -Lord Tebbit, on the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heschine

The voters did not just vote against a discredited Tory government, they voted for New Labout - Ben Chapman, winner of the Wirral South by-election and the area's first Labour MP

Wouldn't you love to be cloned? I think I would. This has nothing to do with vanity, with thinking the world would be a better place if there was another one of me going on after I'm dead. It is pure curiosity - Richard Dawkins, Professor of Public Understanding of Science in Oxford University

Low inflation is the product of sound Tory policies. You may be able to clone a sheep but you can't clone successful Chancellors - Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Britain has long adopted the ostrich position when it comes to teenage sex - Alisan Hadley, national policy officer of Brook Advisory Centres

The English aristocracy is now only the middle class with knobs on - Vivienne Westwood, designer

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Dolly the clone is the story of the decade, maybe even the century. Why? Because she embodies our greatest fears and hopes, says Peter **Popham**



Photograph: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

The sheep that shook the world

sheep, the United States rediscovered William Blake. "Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? intoned the editorial column of the Christian Science Monitor

In Dolly's case, of course, the answer was Dr lan Wilmut of Roslin Laboratories near Edinburgh. Dolly's mild, myopic features nused out of front pages across the world as, not for the first time and certainly not for the last, the whole planet went clone crazy.

Prominent columnists made the most dramatic comparisons. James K Glassman in the Washington Post conducted his own one-man Dutch auction. "Dolly is the biggest story of the year, maybe of the decade, or even of the century," he enthused. thereby echoing the view of Joseph Rothlat, nuclear physicist and winner of the Nobel

to the huilding of the atom It was a lot for a mere sheep

to take on board. Along with Blake, innocence and the atom bomb, many of the 20th cen-tury's nastier ghosts rose from their tombs and clanked their chains. For although the use of the idea of cloning in sci-encefiction goes back only half a century, and only entered popular discourse after the publication of Alvin Toffler's Future Shock in 1970, the idea that man might - or must - control the quality of human breeding, and that human beings might be mass-produced for particular functions just like widgets in a factory, is one of our favourite nightmares.

Wells explored the idea in The Time Machine. Huxley in Brave New World, and large swalhes of intellectual opinion in Britain and elsewhere backed the idea of practical eugenics in the 1920s and 1930s. Only after Hitler came to power and began to put the ideas into practice for the cre-Peace Prize, that Dolly's cre- ation of a master race did ation was equal in importance everyone realise that the whole

idea stank. Eugenics remains as solemn a taboo as antisemitism. which helps to explain why German reaction to Dolly's advent has on the whole heen both hleak and forceful.

The sheep of things to come: Dolly captivates the world's media at her first photo-call

Germans are extremely sensitive to the issue." Peter Benninghoff-Luehl, an expert in genetic engineering at the Kon-rad Adenauer Institute, said. "Because of our history, there rage here if anyone ever tried to clone a human." Die Welt agreed: The cloning of human beings would fit precisely into Adolf Hitler's world view ... there is no doubt that he would have used this technology intensively if it had been available at that time. Thank God it wasn't."

The peculiarity about the Dolly bombshell, as the German reaction shows, is the degree to which the world was ready for it. To the great mass of people outside secretive scientific circles, the atomic bomb, even as it burst over Hiroshima, was a profound and terrifying mystery. Besides feeling terror and shock (and gratitude), no-one knew what

to think for weeks and months In the case of cloning, how-

ever, the first shoe dropped way back in the 1960s, with the cloning of plants. We've had the best part of 40 years to get our responses ready. "It's unbeliev-able," raved Lee Silver, a biology professor at Princeton University, for whom the announcement came just in time for a rewriting of the first chapter of his forthcoming book. "It basically means there are no limits. It means that all sciencefiction is true. They said it could never be done and now here it is, done before 2000." Scientists were astonished and the rest of us had our toke-books to hand. The Munich newspaper

Abendzeitung, hucking the solemn German response. printed five identical pictures of Chancellor Helmut Kohl over a front-page banner headline reading "Genetics researchers say they could now clone Kohl." Other lucky candidates for cloning swam rapidly into view elsewhere. "Imagine five Michael Jordans playing five other Michael Jordans," invited syndicated Washington DC columnist George F Will. Others soon raised the point that, as the Washington Post editorialised, "The people likeliest to succumh to the temptation are ust the people one least wants to have around in perpetuity." In other words, the megalomaniacs, the narcissists, and all those

\$120,000 to have themselves frozen throughout eternity on the off-chance of something turning up. If it is these people rather than the meek who are going to inherit the earth, per-haps the German paper Handelsblatt was right to rumble out the warning. With the cloning of an adult creature, humans can

put an end to evolution." The fantasies about cloning,

essay by Tom Wolfe introducing the ideas of the American sociohiologist Edward O Wilson, who, attempting to clinch the age-old nature versus murture argument decisively in favour of nature, has stated that the

horrors and charms.

Just a month ago, the notion

was revived in a new form in the Independent on Sunday in an

whether about happy me-clones or awesome Jordan clones or

human being is not born a tabula rasa waiting to be filled by 6 Many of the 20th century's nastier ghosts

straight to the heart of why this is a topic that has given us delightful frights for a century or more. It is the most solemn belief of our civilisation that every person is born unique; it is also our experience of each other, and the basis for our reliance on such devices as fin-

gerprints and DNA testing. But for nearly 200 years, we have been teased by the achievements of industrialisation, of the mass production of identical objects. At least since the invention of photography, the idea that identical human beings might also be turned out in people willing to cough up some great Xerox machine has

and clanked their chains 9 experience but rather as "an exposed negative waiting to be slipped into developer fluid." For example, as Wolfe goes on

to expand, quoting identical

twin research at the University

of Minnesota, "an individual's happiness is largely genetic." Some people are hardwired to he happy and some are not."
Wolfe sees this decisive shift of the debate in favour of the nature tendency gathering force as the millennium approaches.
"Today ... barely three years before the end of the millennium, if your appetite for newspapers, magazines and television

is big enough, you will quickly get the impression that there is noth-

jo brand's mum

ing in your life, including the fat, content of your body, that is not genetically predetermined."

That is the cultimal context into which Dolly, in her flawed innocence, has crash landed. Wolfe sees a culture bracing itself for the imminent announcement not only that the soul is dead, but that it never existed. "Exposed negatives waiting to be slipped into the developing fluid of experience" is all we bave a right to imagine ourselves to be. Scientists will in time reproduce us as readily as chocolate bars, and the resulting clones will have as little connecence. All the have nurtured our civilisation will by then have burned away. (leaving us, Wolfe implies, hopelessly floundering):

Perhaps this hysterical juncture is a proper moment to stop and assess - for once again, the apocalyptic and the vapidly optimistic have hitched themselves to our wagon and are dragging us deep into a sci-fi borror future.

For one thing, the intensely loaded word "clone" might use fully be replaced by the phrase "identical twin". As a correspondent to the Independent pointed out, identical twins, like clones, share all their DNA; and identical twins (but not clones like Dolly) also share nine months of incomparable intimacy inside the womb. Identical twins can of course be hard to

ell apart; but no one doubts the The words carbon-copy or Xerox are never applied to twins, not because they are insulting but because they are

plain wrong.
As for the correctness or wrongness of the exposed negative" metaphor, one of the long-range benefits of the Dolly breakthrough may be that, if and when human beings are sucfinally have the wherewithal to rest. One way or the other, we will know for some whether and to what extent we are born or made. Until then, the jury

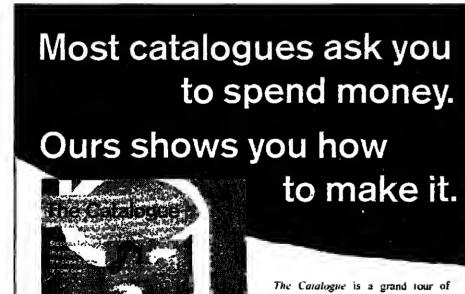
Accept, at least for the sake of argument, that all the talk of slave armies and engenics and master races and brain-dead organ factories is so much titillating nonsense, passed around gleefully as our ancestors passed around tales of mean that Dolly should hold no terrors for us? Instead of alarming ourselves, should we be toasting a (theoretical) way to end to the extinction of all endangered species?

predicament of the cloned individual. This is not a predicament unique to cloning, but is also raised by many of the new pos-sibilities created by advances in embryology, whereby, for exam-ple, babies can be born to long-deed presents dead parents.

The creation of Dolly raises this anxiety anew, and with special intensity. As George Will wrote in the Washington ents, siblings and ancestors are integral to being human ... How will an individual fare when short of all such connections? Do we not risk bringing into being a uniquely profound form of existential loneliness? Arguably, it is only in a society such as ours where family relation as a chocolate to anything tionships are already far more beyond the commencies of existant attenuated than elsewhere, that such a steo could be contemplated without horror. In our insensitivity, we could produce children who have good reason to hate their (non-)parents with

The good news is that, outside of murder, they probably won't be able to do much about it. The Americans have thought this through aheady. Sue Goetinck, life sciences writer of the Dallas Hife sciences writer of the Linux
Morning News, quotes John
Robertson, professor of law and
ethics at the University of Teras at Austin, who is very clear on this point. "Any person born through cloning would have no right to sue for damages," she writes before quoting Professor Robertson: "Texas and most states don't recognize claims that I have been wronged by being born in that way."

Well, not yet they don't.



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know that this time it is Madrid rather than Malaga and the Prado rather than the Pizzeria. She has persuaded The Independent to trust me with the column, thus enabling me to realise journalistic ambitions that were early, but short-lived. This week's struggle for words has identified that writing is a darn sight more demanding than listening

On Friday, the first day of the week for Saturday columnists, I stood in my Ludlow kitchen and cheered with Michael Hickey. Vincent Hickey and Jimmy Robinson. I cried with Michnel Hickey and bis Mum, and I felt an intense sense of joy at the triumph over injustice. I wonder, do those Tory ministers who were so "comfortable" with the original guilty verdict feel any sense of self-doubt. apology? As I think about those two splendid women, Ann Whelan and Ann Skeet, I nm proud to be in the family of women, and I feel an envy of the strength of

and talking, those essential

social work skills.

against the gross institutional dishonesty and legal inertia. What lessons there are for those wanting to tackle the injustices in our society with which, I am sure, those same Tory ministers feel comfortable. We need strong women backed up by decent and honest men: thank you Mr Nichol and Mr Foot, Sadly such a description doesn't seem to fit any of the political parties.

Classic FM's adverts aren't a bundle of laughs, with numerous charitable appeals scoring high on the cringe factor, and with the NSPCC's pre-Christmas appeal leading the field. This week, though, they have redeemed themselves. The water companies of England and Wales are proclaiming their public-spirited approach to service provision with little vignettes describing their laudable activities, and finishing with just one of the success stories the water industry can tell". I haven'l had such a good laugh out of an advertisement for a long time, and if it should work

well perhaps the agency

could set about selling Douglas Hogg as the farmers'

The turn-on of the week was found in unexpected quarters. The Sleeping Beauty hardly promises erotica, but Birmingham Royal Ballet came up trumps in the form of Anthony King's Bluebird. I can't think of many performances that could raise the temperature by several degrees in the nuditorium of an afternoon matinée - but then there can't be too many thighs like

So the big hair brigade is not plagued with bad hair days. We discover that a large chunk of the Legal Aid fund finds its way into the coffers of individual QCs. The

figures quoted by the Lord Chancellor's department range from £300,000 to more-

than £500,000. There is a rider which somehow doesn't massively reassure me. It seems that these payments relate to cases closed in 1995/96 and, as the Chairman of the Bar says, "These figures do not represent annual earnings so no real conclusion can be drawn from them." How about There are some nice little earners to be had out of limited taxpayers' funds"? It would be good to be able to sit in court in the future and not hear witnesses harassed on the subject of the compensation they may be hoping to claim or have claimed already, a tactic used

worthless is the evidence

have some financial reward for the suffering he has experienced.

I telephoned Jo to let her know that the column was written, and discovered that she and her mate were in a impressed by the liberality of the Spanish: mixed Turkish baths ... But I was exercised. by the question of where the bathers put their mobile phones. An almost nediate call back wiped out my surreal image of steam swirfing around the mounds of male and female bodies to the true of ringing mobile phones. It seems they were in a Turkish bar.

Thank you so for this unusual example of nepotism, thank you editor for the opportunity of five minutes of fame, and thank you Ashley Coombes for the photo session. My photo of you is great. If your photo of me is not so good then I shall take comfort in knowing that the process was good even if the outcome was not, one of the major defences of a social by barristers to illustrate how

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Web site



aaronovitch

t was reported yesterday that the Royal Family plans to open a Weh site on the internet. But - after bribing a footman - I am able to give readers of Saturday's Independent (terrific value at 60p) a sneak preview of the Queen's bomepage:

[Large coat of arms, bon, uni-

Welcome to Majesty Web site -the only Net venue for all the information, gossip and news about Great Britain's Royal Family, as it goes about the business of representing Britain and defending the faith.

Press here for entry to Royal Heritage. Tour round the palace of your choice in one of two guided trips: Brusque - with the virtual reality HRH Prince Philip. Extra Slow But Gracious with HM the Queen Mother. Or visit the site of an important historic event in the dramatic tale of the world's most famous royals. Click and see real-time re-enactments of these places and events: The Great Gallery, Windsor, 1993. Queen Victoria's drawing room, Osborne, 1883.

The bedroom at Highgrove any night in August 1984. A third-floor apartment, Mayfair. Sound gallery. Press here to relive those great Royal

King George's visit to the East End, 1941 (including the famous "lord luv yer, yer majesty"); The Coronation of 1952: A Silver Jubilee Street flies of Bastern Europe; Party in the Wirral, 1977; The Debrett's Homepage; Com-Royal Wedding 1981 (hear monwealth Heads of Governagain!); The Squidgeygate tapes; Panorama; Ruby Wax; Fergie and the chimp.

Go on a tour of the flora and fauna of the estates of the Duchy of Cornwall. Prince Charles is your guide. Or visit the BigEars Homepage for news and views on organic farming, architecture, the teaching of English literature, or the Bushmen of the Kalahari.

Is there a child at your PC? Then try Beatrice and Engenie's Kids' Korner, Features include a special children's. advice page on handling moves and, of course, Animal Adventure, where the different bores of sbotguns needed to bring down anything furred or at: liz@aol.com.uk

and frankly. Or how about Willy's Arcade Game, where you pit yourself against a hand-some prince for the coveted title "Deerstalker"?

For something more adult click here for Fergie and Diana's Internet Agony Column. Discover the Princess's answers to your most fre-quently asked questions on bulimia, shopaholia, the other woman, second time around,

or making a million. Also available: health and beauty tips, including mani-cures, pedicures (manual), pedicures (oral), gym clothes tested, getting out of limousines without showing one's knickers

(advanced course).

Press here for full-colour portraits of the Royal Family including those handsl

Fancy a trip to the Royal Leisure Pages, with Tara Palmer Tompkinson as your on-line hostess? From the comfort of your own armchair, experience sking at Klosters or soaking up the sun in Mustique - places you could never hope to visit in person! Or go with Tara to the royal party of the week, and find out what Edward and Sophie are up to (nothing we're sure!), or Princess Margaret's views on what makes a great chaser. In season we take you to Henley. Ascot.: Goodwood- and the

Finally click here for the Onceus Kool Sites Royal fam-Thatcher's demise, 1990. Hyperlink to Queen Noor of Jordan's Harempage, English Heritage, The Save Nicholas Soames Campaign.

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Don't shoot the piano tuner, he's only gone to Cuba

by Jonathan Glancey

Piano Concerto No 31 trembling uncertainly from the open door of a run-down shack in a Hayana suburb? No!

Como no! It's certainly an unfamiliar sound, especially when played by a ragged-trousered teenager with a grin as wide as the Straus of

Ludwig's stentorian chords tangle with the bells of hun-dreds of new Chinese "Flying Pigeon" and "Friendship" bicycles whirring along Havana's 3rd Avenue, while inside this improbable casa de musica, yellowing busts of Ludwig Van rattle and roll on top of a Bechstein upright, gnawed by termites, as Romantic Germany's finest reaches a heroic if wobbly conclusion.

"That wasn't me playing." says Ben Treuhaft, piano tuner and embargo breaker of Berk-cley, California. "I play Beethoven's sonatas a little too fast and hard for Cuban tastes, or anyone's taste for that matter. The great thing is that there are more and more Cubans wanting to play the piano. The sad thing is that it's hard to get parts and so many pianos are broken or out of time.

"I've been running my 'Send a Piana to Havana' programme for 18 months now and taken 35 pianos and \$3,500-worth of parts, mostly bass strings, from the States to Cuba. Whether people want to play Beethoven or boogie, I don't mind. As a piano nut, I just want them to have the chance to learn and to

enjoy playing."

Jesus Maria Gaspai is learning. "My Beethoven is not all that great just yet, but thanks for listening," he says. "I only got a chance to play him just before Christmas Sheet music is hard to get in Cuba. Paper to print it on also. It's much simpler just to improvise with local sounds. As for pianos, they're as rare as a new car. Send us some more, if you can; we can make good use of them."

To get 35 pianos to Cubahas, you may have guessed, got the US federal authorities. "I stand accused of felony pianotuning," he says, trying hard not to laugh. Why? Because Washington imposed a trade embargo on the island in February 1962 and, 35 years on, any US citizen who buys so much as a three-peso shot of rum runs the risk of being prosecuted under the antique Trading With the Enemy Act. as if schmoozing in a bar in Old Havana were the emivalent of selling Grumman Helicats to the Imperial Japanese Navy the day after the attack on

The trade embargo is a bizarre act of pique on the part of Washington, which, stirred up by the Cuban American



Jessica Mitford's son stands accused of breaking the Trading With The Enemy Act for shipping pianos to Havana. His chosen form of defence is ridicule

topple the 38-year-old Castro regime, and dreams of turning Havana into Miami and Cuba into Florida. Despite Congress's best attempts to starve insurrection against Castro), Cuba refuses to give up its independence.

When I went out a second time recently," says Treuhaft, "the US Treasury threatened me with a fine of \$1.3m and a 10-year prison sentence." For sending pianos to Cuba? "Dur-ing the Gulf war, US companies were able to ship medical equipment and drugs to Iraq. but if they send them to Cuba. they are in danger of heing husted and their personnel fined or imprisoned. I went out and back dressed as a piano. If they were going to arrest me when I got back home, they'd have had to have taken a card-

board upright into custody. When in Cuba, I send post-National Foundation, aims to cards from Havana's José

Marti Airport to the state officials in charge of my case. My case worker is Ms BS Betsy Scatt, of the Foreign Assets Control Department of the and ask her about me. II do: but Ms Scatt, wise to Treuhaft's game, refuses to play.]

"Buying a postcard at José Marti Airport is a criminal offence, of course, for a US citizen, so I send them to Senator Robert Torricelli, too, Bob's the guy who penned and pushed through the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, which really tightened American screws on Cuha. It is such repressive stuff that even anti-Castro Cubans felt the need to protest. After all, they've got family and friends here. It is hard to be as nasty as Bob when your grandchildren or nephews and nieces are wasting away while Americans get fatter and fatter. Bob's address. by the way, is 728 Hart Senate Building, Washington DC 20510, if ever you want to write or look him up.

Scatt's Treasury department has held off from nailing the piano man. Even an official "cease and desist" order and a fine of \$10,000 have yet to be enforced.

Treuhaft's tactic of helping individual Cubans to play the piano while holding Washing-ton up to ridicule is clever, if dicev, it is also very much in the spirit of his late mother, the writer and human rights activist Jessica Mitford. Ben is Jessica's son by her second husband. Bob Treuhaft, the celehrated civil rights lawyer.

A rebel to the core, Mitford was a card-carrying member of the Communist Party living and working in the States at the time she was subpoensed by Joe McCarthy's US House Committee on Un-American

Activities. Mitford's tactic was to encourage her opponents to make themselves appear ridi-To date, Torricelli has refused to reply to Treuhaft's missives, off the old block. Which US bankrupt or imprison a liberal and extremely likeable Californian piano tuner for brightening up a few poor lives by shipping pianos to beleaguered

> Robert Torricelli and Bill Clinton. As Treubaft wrote to Torricelli this week, "Your Cuba

Cuba? The first to do so will be

the subject of international

scorn. Treuhaft knows this, Ms

Scaus knows this, and so do

Democracy Act was calculated to ratchet up the embargo at Cuha's darkest hour, and I guess it was meant to cause Cubans to revolt against our old enemy [Castro]. That didn't happen, Instead, the shortages of food and medicine meant that the kids became a bit more asthmatic and the adults got skinnier than ever, and on the streets of Havana and Santiago de Cuba the embargo was universally condemned. Today, Fidel's market reforms are gradually solving the food prob-lem. But the kids are still sick."

Skinny and wheezing, but eager to learn the piano. Jesus Maria Gaspia's pal Camillo Gagarin [after the Soviet cosmonaut) Arbenz is turning the pages of the Beetboven score. I hope to go to the National Music School next year, Sure, I'd like to cat a lor more, but the piano will be my

If he makes it, will he want to make a break to Miami? "No. I'm happy to be Cuban, but I'd like to play in Paris or Madrid. Things are changing here: I'm confident t'll get the

Maybe. Since Torricelli's act was successfully steamrollered through Congress, the Cuban government has signed a plethora of lucrative ioint-venture deals with foreign companies world-wide, Last year the number of foreign visitors to Cuba exceeded l million, and now that US dollars are freely exchangeable in Havana into Cuban pesos, the economy bas opened up and grown (7 per cent in 1996). This is a remarkable about-turn after the grim years from 1990 to 1994, when Cuhans were reduced to living like Third World peasants in their heautiful, if crumbling, cities,

Cubans may be beginning to eat adequately, if not particularly well, and the economy is evidently growing, though anti-US feeling is still riding high on the embargoed island. But, because this is Cuba - hot, sexy, Caribbean - there is always time to forget international politics and sabre-rattling, and

While the US Treasury decides whether or not to shoot (metaphorically, of course) the piano tuner from California. Cuhans salsa on. And the sound of brass, bass, guitar and rhythm sticks is underpinned by emhargo-busting American pianos stroked and hammered by the likes of Jesus Maria and Camillo Gagarin. Roll over Beethoven, and tell Bill Clinton the news.

The damaged women of Africa

have just returned from making a TV documentary in Kapchorwa District - a part of Uganda that is populated by the Sabiny tribe, which still practises female genital mutilation (some people prefer less emotive and condemnatory descriptions such as "female gential cutting" and "female circumcision"). As an African myself, but Westernised, and a feminist, I did not want to make a film that merely attacked the Sabinys for being misogynous "savages".

Yes, there are unprogressive elements, but I had beard that some Sabiny girls and parents were refusing to submit to genital mutilation. And I wanted to focus on these pioneers who are rejecting a practice that not only causes enormous pain, but can also lead to infection, incontinence, permanent disability, infertility, childbirth complications and death.

Kapchorwa is a remote and largely unmodernised, sensationally beautiful, mountainous region near Uganda's border with Kenya. The film crew and I arrived during the "circumcision season" - which takes place every two years, in December.

I hope that we succeeded in making a fairly positive film that did not obsessively dwell on "bad" Sabinys who stubbornly cling to ancient and harmful traditions. But I cannot forget or forgive them. While the Sabiny progressives inspired



Men should not bear all the blame for the shameful tradition of female genital mutilation, argues Donu Kogbara

was a harrowing experience. Girls - aged 13 to 18 - were

held down in village clearings while their clitorises were sliced anaesthetic. The atmosphere was festive - much drinking, cheerful chanting and merry dancing accompanied this macabre public circus. And the girls, though stoically silent during and after the operation, were clearly in agony and shock. Blood trickled down their legs. They could barely walk. I wondered how many of

by Easter. It is hard to believe that this butchery is still condoned in most African countries. Three months on, I still wake up in the middle of the night, tearful and incandescent with race. What angers me most is the active involvement of women. Female genital mutilation is often blamed on male chauvinism and patriarchal social val-

them would be dead or crippled

ues. And it is true that far too many African men will not marry an uncircumcised woman. It is also true that female genital motilation originates in

a male desire to control female sexuality, to eliminate the female libido, to punish women and to enhance male sexual pleasure (some women undergo infibulation, a radical form of mutilation which leaves them with tiny vaginal openings). So, yes, let's blame the men

hope and joy, they were a about the women who eagerly minority. My trip to Kapchorwa collude in their own violation? The "surgeon" in Kapchorwa a woman - gleefully informed me that mutilation is good for women, and that she never mutilates anyone who doesn't want to be mutilated. Many of the mutilated mothers, grannies, big sisters and aums of her most recent victims wholeheartedly agreed with her claims." The 116,000-strong Sabinys

comprise only 5 per cent of the Ugandan population. And the male-dominated Ugandan government does not approve of female genital mutilation. But its exhortations are dismissed or resented by most Sabiny females. Indeed, when Ugandan TV screened a programme about the disadvantages of mutilation, they rebelled, instead of welcoming an excuse to escape the knife. That year, a record number of Sabiny women requested mutilation.

According to a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) document: "In the early Nineties, attempts to enforce compliance with international health and human rights norms created a hacklash. Local (Sabiny) women who had evaded the custom embraced the blade as an act of resistance to cultural interference."

Female genital mutilation is unconditionally denounced by some African women, such as Efua Dorkenoo and Ramat Mohammed, a Ghanaian and a for being bastards. But what Nigerian who run Forward, an

ill-resourced but dynamic lobbying group based in Lon-don. But in Sierra Leone tone of many examples), women's secret societies enthusiastically endorse mutilation, Members of these societies perform the operation and aggressively threaten those who oppose it. An estimated 6,000 girls are

mutilated every day in Africa, and an estimated 120 million living women have undergone some form of genital mutilation. But when I complain about these horrifying statistics, it is often women who tell me to shut up. Women from Somalia and Sudan (where 90 per cent are mutilated) have told me to mind my own business whenever I venture to suggest that female genital mutilation is sado-masochistic, shameful. unnecessary and incompatible with the late-20th century.

In the UK, 13,000 Britishborn children whose parents hail from Africa are at risk from mutilation. Frequently, it is their mothers who insist that they go back to Africa in the school holidays to be mutilated.

Meanwhile, there are men who are either uncompromising opponents of the practice or simply not as committed to it as some women. Sometimes it is men who look sheepish when I rant about the evils of mutilation, and it is fathers who logically assess the "benefits" and decide that their daughters should be spared. Sometimes it is men who

firmly echo my view that there is an urgent need for action. Jackson Chekweko runs Reach an anti-mutilation initiative in Kapchorwa sponsored by the UNFPA. Chekweka, a Sabiny graduate, uses genile persuasion and education as tools. He does not lose his temper or opfor a "you backward natives" approach.

Nevertheless, this mildmannered man docs regard mutilation as barbaric; and he seemed much more upset about it than any of the local women I interviewed. Even those Subins women who swore that they'd never be willingly murilated were less obviously furious about the practice than Chekweko. I do not want to give the false

impression that men like Chekweko are commonplace. Nor do I want to undermine the extremely valuable input of the many women of all races who have fought a good fight against female genital mutilation. Female genital mutilation is probably actively opposed by more women than men. But wby should any woman

support it? I will no doubt be accused of attacking victims who don't know any better. But I'm sick of the view that African women are brainless children who can't be criticised for passionately embracing oppression and possible death.

The film can be seen in the 'Correspondent' slot on BBC2 at



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business & city

Trader suspended as NatWest takes £50m hit

Tom Stevenson and John Willcock

Nat West stunned the City late last night with a warning that its first-half profits would take a £50m hit to cover serious "mispricing errors" on the interest rate options book run by its in-vestment banking arm, NatWest Markets. The announcement came only days after the bank accompanied full-year results with the promise that its derivatives business was "tightly con-

NatWest declined to elabo-

read: "As a result of its internal checking procedures NatWest Markets has discovered mispricing errors in its interest rate options book. A senior trader bas been suspended for failure to supervise, pending the conclusion of an internal in-

Nat West said it had already made a report to the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) about another trader, who is understood to have carried out the mispricing to balance his position in a manner similar to the

attempts by Nick Leeson, the to inflate profits by £50m and rogue trader who brought down Barings, to unwind previous trading errors. He has subsequently left the firm.

It is thought the suspended employee was the rogue trad-er's supervisor who would bave been expected to notice irreg-ularities of this sort. He would remain suspended, Nat West said, until an internal inquiry bad been conducted into the events leading to the £50m hit. One trader familiar with the interest rate options market

said it would be relatively easy

it was not thought that the problem necessarily pointed to ore systematic fraud.

Nat West's shares are certain to come under pressure on Monday thanks to the timing of the announcement just after the market closed yesterday. Traders were speculating on a fall of at least 20p on yesterday's close of 758.5p.

Only three days ago, when NatWest announced profits of £1.12bn for 1996, down from

point to a sharp rise in the staff. costs from £510m to £726m.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, said the higher figure reflected the costs of acquisinons but the coincidence of the rise with yesterday's announcement is sure to focus attention on the risks to financial institutions of staff whose pay packages are highly geared to performance-related

The Bank of England is expected to draw attention to the dangers of the City's culture of

cussion paper on Monday on "Remuneration and Risk". It will say: "Many employees in the financial sector receive a significant part of their income in the form of profit-related bonns-es. They therefore have a personal stake in the outcome of the activities they carry out on behalf of their employer. If these

employees have significant dis-cretion, then a firm's overall risk profile may be influenced by its employees' attitudes to risk." --The Bank's comments follow

nancial services group Liberty International, in which he warned of the risks inherent in "massive surge in over-incen-tivisation of personnel within the investment banking and capital market sectors. This has led to a number of financial accidents and will undoubtedly lead to more dramatic cata-

A spokesman for the SFA Nat West Markets have reported these matters to us and we a diatribe earlier this week by are studying them."

dals involving rogue traders. Leeson managed to sink Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank, virtually single handed when his unsupervised futures trading racked up losses of over £800m. Lesson is in jail in Singapore following a conviction for manthorised trading.

Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo's "Mr Copper", caused losses of over £10n following years of unauthorised trading, during which he managed to manipulate the price of copper.

Morgan Stanley UK chief pockets £4m

David Usborne

The Wall Street bonus bonanza. spawned by record profits earned in 1996, has crossed the water to London, Sir David Walker. a managing director at Morgan Stanley in the City, was paid no less than \$6.5m (£4m) last year according to filings made by the bank to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The information, submitted in connection with Morgan Stanley's planned merger with Dean Witter Discover, reveals that the bank paid three of its top officers more than \$10m each in 1996.

Sir David. who beads Morgan's European operations and is a former executive at the Bank of England, came in with the fourth biggest pay packet. Sir David began his career at the Treasury in 1961, and has held numerous other senior posts including being chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, chairman of Johnson Matthey Bankers, and deputy

chairman of Lloyds Bank. The filing offers rare official intelligence about the earnings of the top players on Wall Street last year. While New York has been buzzing for weeks about mega-bonuses, most banks have followed tradition in zipping up about the full extent of their—bank's expansion programme.—resigning recently after a wellgenerosity to their traders, analysts and investment bankers. in Morgan Grenfell Asset Man-

the big institutions in coming weeks should, bowever, give additional glimpses into the sheer richness of last year's bonus handout. After a good year, it is not uncommon for top performers to receive lump bonus payments of up to eight times basic salary.

salary, a casb bonus and some restricted stock. He may not be able to realise the stock for several years. It none the less represents a doubling of wbat he was paid a year earlier.

The biggest winner at the firm was John Mack, 52, president of Morgan Stanley, who received The package paid to Sir \$10,677,489 for the year that end-David, who oversees Morgan Stanley's European operations, ed 30 November – a 60 per cent increase on his earnings in 1995.

Bonuses cut after Peter Young fiasco

Bonuses at Deutsche Morgan agement, the division which Grenfell are believed to bave been cut by as much as 20 per cent, a result of the £400m Peter Young fiasco last year and a sharp increase in staff numbers, writes Clifford German.

Although 1996 was a good year for most of the seven profit centres in the bank the bonus pool was reduced to take account of the activities of Mr Young, The number of eligible individuals for bonuses also rose to more than 8,000 worldwide.

Staffing numbers in London increased by several bundred to more than 3,000, reflecting the carried the can for Mr Young's

The discretionary bonus system, though, did mean that some individuals received bigger cheques than in 1995. All staff are eligible, from secretaries who may get bouuses into four figures to senior man-

sured in five and six figures. One notable omission from the bonus payout list was Nicola Horlick, former head of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management's institutional arm, who forfeited her entitlement by

Fillings from several other of is likely to have been a mix of Mr Mack will also be president of the merged Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Discover.

The chairman of Morgan Stanley, Richard Fisher, 60, who is close to retirement, received \$10,493,028. Meanwhile, Peter Karches, 45, who heads Morgan Stanley's securities business, receieved a package worth \$10.13m. Barton Biggs, the firm's economic guru with a strong. following, made \$6.3m, only marginally less than Sir David, All this beneficence follows

Wall Street's stellar performance in 1996, when profits reached a record \$12.5bn. According to New York State estimates, bonuses paid out on Wall Street from last year may reach a jaw-dropping \$8.1bn, 30 per cent more than the previ-

ous high of \$6.2bn.
With 150,000 employed on
Wall Street, that would average out at a one-off bonus payment of \$54,000 for every worker. In reality the tidal wave of dollars will have been skewed more heavily in favour of the most senior echelons of the Street and at the most succesful banks.

Other firms that have made bonus headlines in recent weeks have included Bear Stearns, which paid \$18.8m to its chairman, Alan Greenberg, last year. The nearly 200 partners of Goldman Sachs - of which many are in London - are (above), re \$4m and \$8m each last year.



on Wall Street: Sir David Walker, Morgan Stanley's head of European operations the bank's fourth bit Biggest cuts in bonuses were publicised bust-up with the thought to have made between received more than \$10m each in 1996. The rare official intelligence of top players' Well Street earnings was submitted in connection with Mongan's planned menter with Dean Witter Discover.

United may lose £90m on project

Michael Harrison

United Utilities yesterday became the latest British water company to run into trouble overseas after disclosing that it is facing a loss of up to £90m on NewC

\$ 4.11.74

BA backs

plans for

600-seat

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a sewage project in the Thai capital of Bangkok.

The group, which owns North West Water and Norweb, said it was taking an £83m provision in this year's accounts after encountering further delays and problems on the £150m contract begun in 1993.

United Utilities had already taken a £7m charge against the contract in its 1994/95 results after the scale of the potential losses began to emerge. The provisions are equivalent to a third of last year's annual pre-tax profits of £272m. The shares

fell 6p to 667.5p

The company insisted yesterday, however, it had a strong case for recovering the additional costs and it intended to pursue its claims vigorously. A spokesman said the delays and additional costs had resulted from changes-in the specification of the contract to build a sewage treatment works and network in the Thai capital and the failure of the client, Bangkok Metropolitan Ad-

ministration, to provide proper site access. .Changes in government regulations had also limited the contractors to working only four hours a day in certain areas of the city and then only if the work was carried out at night

and did not cause noise. Negotiations over the cost and time overruns with the

25% staff on **Thames Trains**

Michael Harrison

Another privatised rail operator yesterday announced plans for beavy staff cuts but pledged that the redundancies would not affect service levels. Go-Ahead, the bus and rail

group, is axing up to a quarter of the workforce in its Thames Trains franchise which operates between Paddington, Oxford. Windsor and Gatwick Airport. The company, which also op-

erates the Thameslink franchise, is taking a £3.8m cbarge to cover 200 to 250 redundancies among the 1,000-strong workforce at Thames Trains. But Go-Ahead's managing

director, Marin Ballinger. promised that the staff reductions would not bring about a repeat of the chaos seen on South West Trains after it was taken over as part of the rail privatisation programme. Stagecoach, which won the

franchise last year, is facing beavy fines after baving to cancel 450 services a week because of a sbortage of drivers. South West Trains shed 70 of its

FTSE 100 FTSE 250

670 drivers last month under a voluntary redundancy scheme. Mr Ballinger said the redundancy programme at Thames Trains would be introduced progressively in a way that would not jeopardise services.

He was speaking as Go-Ahead reported a near doubling in pre-tax profits in the half-year to the end of December to £12.2m and plans to expand its bus operations into continental Europe. The group, which operates 20 per cent of all bus services in London, said it was looking particularly at France

and Scandinavia for expansion. Go-Ahead was partnered by the French transport group VIA-GII in its bid for Thames link and was involved in the bid-ding race for Swebus. Scandinavia's biggest bus operator.

only to lose out to Stagecoach. The group is also bidding to take on the Docklands Light Railway franchise in London's docklands as part of a strategy of strengthening further its presence in south-east England. the biggest public transport market in western Europe.

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Day's change Change(%) 1996/87 High 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

Go-ahead axes | Cathcart drives off with £2m from Avis

Magnus Grimond

Alun Cathcart, the chairman and chief executive of Avis Europe, is set to receive his second £2m windfall in the space of a decade from the flotation of Europe's largest car hire operator.

Yesterday the group an-nounced the 108p to 126p a share price range for the group's stock market offering, its second in just over 10 years, which will value Avis at up to £734m, making it the biggest public offer this year.

fore tax from the group's orig-inal stock market debut in 1986 and subsequent highly geared £900m sale in 1989 to a group that included D'Ieteren, Belgium's leading car importer, and General Motors. The latest float will see him

convert options into shares worth £2.37m at the 117p midrange price. He is selling 60 per cent of his stake, which would raise £1.42m at the mid-price, mostly to cover tax liabilities,

Mr Cathcart made £2.2m be- and is locked into the remaining holding for 12 months. In all, 62 managers will end up with a stake worth between £6.3m and £7.3m as a result of the conversion of options granted at the equivalent of 1p each. Mr Cathcart promised yes-

terday be would not be coming back to the market a third time. "I can guarantee, after the last four weeks, I have done my last Avis flotation. That I can guarantee," be said yesterday. Ten per cent of the offer,

extra days on Avis rentals, a hot line to automatic reservations and discounts on hire rates. for their shares through intermediaries such as banks, stock-

for individual investors, who will

be entitled to membership of the Avis Europe Founders'

Club. This will make them

eligible for perks such as free

Individuals will have to apply brokers and four share shops. But Mr Cathcart said UK retail

which will raise a net £237m at the mid-price, will be reserved high levels". The retail offer closes on 21 March, with trading due to begin on 4 April. Avis is estimating that operating profits rose a fifth to £101m in the 12 months to the end of last month. Merrill Lynch, one of the brokers to the issue, is forecasting that profits will rise from £56.8m to £89.7m at the pre-tax level in the year

the indicative pricing range.

Governor of Bangkok and the central government had been progressing favourably as late as December. However, the Governor informed United Utilities last month that its claims were no longer valid, meaning the dispute will have to go to arbitration. United Utilities has since pulled out of international construction activities, in common with other water companies which have suffered heavy lossto next February, putting a p/c es, notably Thames Water ratio of between 12 and 13.5 on which took a £100m charge

Capital Corp delays results date

John Wilicock

Capital Corporation, the casino group defending itself against a £191m bostile takeover bid from the London Clubs International (LCT), is postponing next Tuesday's scheduled an-nouncement of 1996 results until the bidder produces a formal offer document.

"We intend to publish our defence document with our results, and we have 14 days to prepare the defence from the time we receive LCI's offer document," a Capital spokesman said yesterday.

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Money Market Rates

there bad been "a deafening silence" from LCI since is launched its 47-for-100 all-shares bid 11 days ago. An LCI spokesman responded that "the timing of the offer document is a sensitive decision and not one we can comment on".

Both companies refused to comment on market speculation that Ladbroke, which announces its 1996 results next Thursday. was in talks with either party. Rank has also been mentioned as a possible bidder for Capital. LCI bas three weeks from after making its bid before it bas

7.26

8.04

Print (s) Charge (s) % Charge

INTEREST RATES

The spokesman said that to produce the offer document. from £13m. Capital incurred Capital's sbares closed down 6p at 205p yesterday while LCI added 0.5p to 379p.

One analyst commented: Capital's price says the market is looking for a higher bid, perhaps with a bit of cash. It looks like a straight argument over price. Mercury Asset Management (MAM) owns 17 per cent in both companies, so they'll have a big say in it."

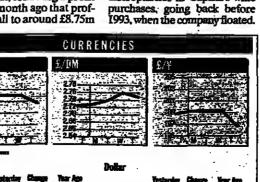
Capital's price was languishing at 155p before LCI's announcement, following a profit warning a month ago that profits would fall to around £8.75m

£3.5m costs due to closure of the Colony Club last year for a £6.5m refurbishment.

Capital, led by its chairman Gary Nesbitt, has also suffered several embarrassments over the past year. Last summer half a dozen croupiers were fired and a customer barred from their casinos after a fixing ring was discovered. In another incident, Hambros, the company's advisers, called in accountants from Price Waterhouse to investigate discrepancies in Capital's wine

154.4 - 146.0 13 Mar

109.7+2.6pc 107.0 25 Apr



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360.75 6.8 397.60 GDP 109.7+2.6pc 107.0 221.71 5.08 259.0 8ase Rates - 6.00pc 6.75

Iveco to close Langley factory

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Iveco-Ford, the truck-making mt venture between Fiat and Ford, vesterday confirmed plans to close its historic Langley plant near Slough in Berkshire with the loss of 450 jobs.

Iveco said it took the move. another blow to the already shrinking British commercial ve-hicle industry, because of overcapacity in the European truck of the 65-acre Langley site, market. Alan Fox, the chairman, which Ford owns and could sell said demand for medium-sized lorries had shrunk by 40 per cent

in the past 20 years. Production will shift to Brescia in Italy, a move the Transport and General Workers Union said amounted to "social

dumping.
The union said it mirrored. Ford's recent decision to shift long-term production of the best-selling Escort from its Halewood plant on Mersey side, involving the loss of about

ing the 1930s and 1940s and started producing trucks 35 main musual in selling amost years ago. Workers build the half their production a their & mercial vehicle market, making were said to be planning to it Britain's best-selling lorry. strike on Monday.

Ford sold its UK truck-building operations to Iseco in 1986.

for more than £50m; depending on whether the local council

grants planning permission.

The news came as Renault, the troubled French car giant, announced plans to close its fac-tory in Belgium. Renault said e move would cut its costs by Fr850m (£95m) a year in the face of a huge drop in French car sales. However the one off cost of closing the plant would total Fr12bn, Renault wanted Demand for cars has slumped after France ended a The Langley factory, built 90 scheme to subsidise private years ago, was used to make buyers willing to scraptices old Hawker Hurricane fighters during the prischeme to subsidise private vately owned Peugeot proup re-main musual in selling almost

Workers at the Belgian plant

Statistics as of 28 February

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STOCK MARKETS

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Oil Brent‡ \$ 19.87 -0.17 17.71

All January Lines

Production at the site has been declining for several years. In 1996 it made just 7,677 Cargos, of which a fifth were exported, compared with a full production capacity of about 20,000 vehicles. In its best year it managed to make fewer than 17,000 tracks. Another factor in Iveco's decision is likely to be the value

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by Trevor apossibly SmithKline Beecham has convinced a key panel of the US Food stretched and Drug Administration to recommend approval of its Coreg heart treatment for sale in the US. Last May, the panel refused

British Airways yesterday gave its backing to the launch of a new generation of super jumbo jets, forecasting that 600-seat aircraft would be flying in sig-nificant numbers early in the next century.
In evidence to the Heathrow

> Ayling, said the airline remained committed to introducing larger and more cost-efficient aircraft. We believe there is a need for such aircraft to be introduced in the early years of the next decade. In our opinion, whilst the phasing of fleet plans in the short term may be reassessed, there is no basis for assuming that larger aircraft, including 600-seaters, will not

be flying in significant numbers by the time Terminal 5 is fully operational," said Mr Ayling. His comments follow Boeing's decision to shelve the 57bn (£4.3bn) development of a 550-seat successor to the 747 jumbo jet and remarks earlier this week by British Aerospace. one of the partners in Airbus, casting doubt on how committed the European aircraft consortium was to launching its own

super jumbo, code-named the Ironically, it was BA's decision not to be a lanneh customer for the planned Boeing 747-600X which ultimately forced the US aircraft manufacturer to abandon the project. However, Mr Ayling said

that BA's long-term predictions were "unaffected" by Boeing's

jumbos to its fleet.

An independent Bank is Labour's litmus test

Brown is going to be -

regarded by financial

markets as an

unknown quantity,

at worst a Labour

chancellor of the old

school, willing to play

fast and loose with

advance the Party's

the economy to

social priorities'

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I sound public finances and low inflation reached a point of no return this week with the announcement by Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, of an inflation target of JEREMY WARNER 25 per cent and new monetary arrange-'At best, Gordon

ments to back it up. With this statement, Labour seems to have been both baptised and confirmed into the faith all at the same time. Or has it? What Labour says it will do and what it will actually do when in government are

likely to be two very different things. Belief in the new religion is one thing, being a good Christian quite another. On one level, Labour's refusal to contemplate giving the Bank of England immediate independence in the determination of monetary policy is an entirely practical piece of decision making. To do so would require legislation, and that's going lo take a minimum of a year to enact. So even if Mr Brown did not believe the Bank had to "earn" its

independence with a period of good behav-iour on probation, some kind of transitional arrangement would have to be put in place.
Even so, it is hard not to sense in Mr
Brown's manoeuvrings a deeper purpose, for part of the intention of these arrangements is to achieve a situation where all risk of conflict between chancellor and Bank in the

determination of policy is removed. Mr

the conversion of Labour to the cause of but there's actually a bit more to it than get sound public finances and low inflation ing rid of the media ritual of the Ken and effective right of veto. Eddie show. He wants to arrive at n point where the two sides, he and the Bank, are

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able to agree on policy in nearly all conceivable circumstances. While this seems a reasonable enough ambition, the effect may well be a rather laner monetary policy than would otherwise be the case. There is generally compromise and fudge behind the outward appearance of harmony and this setup seems like a formula for just that. In a non-adversarial sys-tem, the halance in policy will always be towards the soft option. At this early stage in Britain's artempt to establish credibility

as a low inflation economy, is this really the right approach?

To claim that lax policy is actually Mr Brown's purpose here may be to exaggerate the argument, but this could well be the effect. The Bank will he required to set up a formal monetary policy committee to guide the Governor on his advice, which in turn will be half staffed by seconded outsiders. While technically these people will not be Labour placemen - the Court of the Bank of England will make the appointments - in practice they will be; in the real world the Bank is not going to opt for any-

The Bank has managed to win one important concession - that all these appointments will be established experts in the field of monetary policy. The powerful vested interests of organised capital and labour don't automatically get a seat at the table. Even so, it can readily be seen that the effect could easily be to dilute and homogenise the

decision-making process. And just in case the committee is still prone to err on the side of caution, notwithstanding the outsiders, the chancellor is proposing to bolster his position through the appointment of a powerful "council of economists" who will work to him at the Treasury. Should the two sides perchance

disagree, there is not much doubt who would have the upper hand.

Some of what Mr Brown proposes seems entirely reasonable, given the traditional suspicion with which financial markets hold Labour governments. Could Mr Brown get away with defying the Bank of England's advice, in the same way as Kenneth Clarke has? Certainly not in his first year or two. The markets would wreak a lasting revenge, even though Mr Brown, like Mr Clarke a couple

of years ago, might with the passage of time is just a way of making those choices seem one Mr Brown doesn't approve of It can be stated with some certainty, for instance, that Patrick Minford will not be on the short list.

Brown is going to be regarded by financial if its to "earn" its independence, the shadow

markets as an unknown quantity, at worst a chancellor is surely kidding, isn't he? Respon-Labour chancellor of the old school, quite sibility for the disastrous, compromised willing to play fast and loose with the economy if that is the price that has to be paid to advance the Party's social priorities. So in that sense Mr Brown is quite justified in setting himself up with a mechanism that allows him to exercise his judgement without having to pay a ghastly penalty for doing so.

But here's the ruh. Mr Brown's judgement his all too likely to be of the variety that factors in a whole host of other criteria besides rigid adherence to the inflation target. Maintaining growth is one. Unemployment another. And, very pertinent at the moment, a third might be the exchange rate. I don't want to over egg the argument here, for in many respects it is hard to fault what Mr Brown is proposing. Quite a bit of what I've been saving might seem unduly

Bank is a very questionable one. Stripped of its rhetoric, what's proposed here is merely the old system in new clothing. The decision will remain the chancellor's; the rest

Mr Brown implies when he talks about the Bank having to earn its independence. Mr Brown holds out the promise of independence, but will he actually deliver? Having already tied his hands so thoroughly on tax and spend, will he really want to surrender monetary policy as well? If Labour takes us into monetary union, it will have no cynical and nit picking. But the claim that option. Maastricht demands central bank these arrangements are a significant advance independence, subservient to the even more distant independence of the European Cen-tral Bank. Mr Brown's scope for painting on on what went before, an evolutionary leap on the way to full independence for the the broader economic canvass would be more restricted than ever. The issues Mr Brown is grappling with over domestic monetary policy are magnified 10-times over in

European monetary union. His failure fully

to embrace independence for the Bank of

England may be a harbinger of things to

nature of policy over the past 50 years lies

not with the Bank but with successive gen-

erations of chancellors. Set against such a

record, the Bank's error of judgement in advising on an interest rate hike two years

ago when none proved necessary should

scarcely register at all. That hasn't stopped

it being constantly cited to support the case

against independence. Since when has erring

on the side of caution been an offence greater

than that of wrecklessness? Yet that is what

Brown calls it "depersonalising" the process Newcastle United looks to score

Tom Stevenson City Editor Newcastle United asked the City to pay for its £50m five-year spending spree yesterday, announcing a stock market flotation that will value the football club at between £172m and £193m. The float, which will raise £47.4m of new funds for the club, at least 10 per cent from the private investors who

are currently flocking to invest

m football chibs, has already

been a bonanza for the com-

Newcastle's prospectus. showed the company's two joint

chief executives and its finance-

major shareholder, north-east

property-magnate Sir John Hall.

Mark Corbridge, the 33-year-

old former Rothschild banker

pocketed £300,000 despite

BA backs

plans for

600-seat

aircraft

Michael Harrison

pany's directors.

. . .

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- 7x -

director have shared more than : £1m in one-off payments "inrecognition of the part they have; played in the recent development of Newcastle United". commercial director of Glasgow Rangers and chief executive for the past five years, received £750,000 from Newcastle's

who is now joint chief executive of Sir John Hall, brought it

being with the club for less than Premiership last season.

£50m from float

a vear Jo Dixon, finance director, was paid £100,000. paid guaranteed bonuses regardless of the performance of the club or company. Both chief executives will be paid basic salaries of £160,000, but have a bonus worth between 50 and 100 per cent of that figure written into their contracts. Sir Terence Harrison, the former Rolls-Royce, chief ex-ecutive who was named as New-castle snon-accounce chairman

on rebuilding the north-east's sleeping giant, most famously last year with the £15m acquisition of Alan Shearer, the England striker. From beneath the spectre of relegation to the old Third Division, Newcastle's recovery,

funded out of the deep pockets

within a whisker of winning the

House prices were boosted by a shortage of properties for sale last month, Nationwide Build-

ing Society reported yesterday.

Prices have now climbed 10 per

cent from their trough in 1995.

The increase in Nationwide's

ndex was 0.7 per cent in Feb. ruary, about the same as the re-

cent monthly average.

That took them to a level 8.5

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The company said yesterday the funds would not be used for The directors are also to be a proposed new stadium, for which it is seeking planning per-mission. It did, however, put a price tag on the development of the stand, and the conversion of

mto an indoor arena, of £90m. No details of where that money would come from were given.
The heavy costs of building and maintaining a top squad was spelled, out in yesterday's prospecnis. Newcastle made reastle shoil-alternive chairman prospectus. Newcastle made yesterilay said the proceeds of the float would be used to pay streams of gate receipts, television fees, sponsorship and the sale of branded products in the year to July last year. But that number was wiped out by operating the feet of the proceeds of the p

parture from his two previous

jobs of Newcastle's manager

Kenny Dalglish, who took over

recently from Kevin Keegan. He

now been running at above 8 per cent for four months, al-

though the building society is forecasting a rise of 7 per cent for 1997 as a whole.

Paul Sanderson, head of re-

search, said: "Survey evidence

still strongly suggests shortages

of property for sale remain a

problem in many areas, causing

upward pressure on prices in certain areas of the market and

frustrating many potential buy-



gregate operating loss for the past five years to £37.9m. Mr Fletcher disputed the claim that investors might be contract and would be in receipt of unspecified share options. No concerned by the abrupt de-

banks have reported a small de-

The British Bankers' Associ-

in double digits later this year

cline in the number of loans ap-

proved in January.

Bonus winners: (from left) Directors Jo Dixon, Mark Corbridge and Freddie Fletcher (right) have shared more than £1m in pay-offs already signed a three-and-a-half year £51m before expenses. Assuming a price in the middle of that range the shares are being sold at 22.4 times carnings per share, players are to get options. According to yesterday's as adjusted for transfer fees and prospectus, 40 million Newcastle other exceptional items. The

attempted to reassure potential shares will be issued at between company said it would have investors by saying Dalglish had 120p and 135p each to raise paid a dividend of 1.6p a share House shortage forces up prices Both building societies and istry reported a decline in the number of property sales recorded by 34,000 to 230, 198

in the final quarter of last year,

in contrast to Inland Revenue

statistics showing that the num-

"All told, the major banks'

mortgage figures for the month

provide support for the view that the early months of 1997

will see further sustainable re-

covery in housing market ac-

ation, representing the main high street banks, said yesterday ber of property transactions in that the number fell from December were a third higher 32,234 in December to 31,637 than a year earlier. in January. This was slightly However, Tim Sweeney, dilarger than the normal season-al decline. rector general of the BBA, said net mortgage lending strengthened "appreciably" in While some economists are redicting house price inflation

as the economy continues to strengthen, others point to the ahead of the general election, probably explained why there had been tentative signs of a few weaker figures as evidence that the housing recovery has slowdown in housing market acreached a plateau. For example, the Land Reg- tivity," he said.

three firm bids

Scottish Amicable the Stirlinga secondary consideration. The offers differ significantbased mutual insurance group ly in detail, but headline figures are misleading, Warburg said yesterday. Cash in hand is not the same as a loan.

known if it has done so. £400m in cash and £400m in bonuses for policyholders, plus a loan of £1 Ibn from the Pru's life fund into the ScotAm fund, Prudential also promises to make ScotAm the focus of its policy holders. This could revolve around the relative merits of operations, selling policies mained keen on adding super cash shares, or additional bonus through independent financial es added to the ultimate value of advisers.

EMU 'delay' fears force

Yvette Cooper Central banks in Italy and Spain were forced to intervene in

Jitters that a single currency might be delayed resulted in dealers selling Italian bonds and buying German debt instead. There were repercussions for bonds and currencies across Europe. Traders said the Bank of Italy and the Bank of Spain both

erament bonds softened too. The mark strengthened against the lira and the peseta during the day. Traders said the Bank of Italy intervened when the exchange rate reached

Some dealers suggested that the rumours were begun by traders in an attempt to get the markets moving. But jutters were also fuelled by Bundesbank board member Peter Schmidhuber, who said yesterday morning that "hectic" attempts to meet the deficit criteria were causing only the appearance of convergence.

· A Treasury-backed Bill giving building societies extra powers and limited protection against bostile takeovers was yesterday brought before Parliament, ending months of doubt as to whether it would be introduced. The Building Societies Bill seeks to remove restrictions on societies' commercial activities, allowing them to offer a wider range of financial services. Societies will now be able to make up to 25 per cent of loans that are not fully secured on residential property. Until now, only a tiny proportion could be for anything other than mortgages. The Bill will also strip the five-year protection against takeover from any demutualising society which is itself involved in a bid to take over

another company. FKI is spending £21m on reorganising its electrical engineering division, which includes the Hawker Siddeley Electric Power group and Marelli Motori. The company said the reorganisation was being made to "take advantage of their combined strengths". It said the impact of the recent strength of sterling on overseas earnings had been largely balanced by a relatively strong US market.

 Richards, the specialist engineering group, warned that its profit margins in the UK were being eroded by the continuing strength of sterling and as a result it had to put its Northern Ireland spinning plants on short-time working. The warning, which came at the annual general meeting, was blamed on the near 20 per cent appreciation of sterling against the Belgian franc. Cambridge Antibody Technology yesterday announced plans to raise £35m in the latest of a growing stream of stock market flotations in the biotechnology sector. The company, which was

started in the bedroom of joint founder and chief executive David

Chiswell, has developed what it claims is technology for isolat-ing human monoclonal antibodies, used both in making drugs and in screening other compounds to test their suitability as drugs. The group is expected to be capitalised at around £90m by the mainly institutional placing, with dealings due to start on 25 March China had a 1996 trade surplus with the US of \$10.54bn report said total trade between the two countries in 1996 rose

4.9 per cent year-on-year to \$42.84bn. Exports to the US last year totalled \$26.7bn, up 7.9 per cent, while US imports totalled \$16.2bn, up 0.2 per cent. However, according to US data. America's US

building process ends the following day with pricing to be announced on 4 March and announced on 4 March and | to approve the drug, saying it needed more information from the dealing due to start on 2 April. | British drugs group.

Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation

Profit/(loss) for the period

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

had it been listed for the whole

The retail offer closes on 20

March. The institutional book-

of the year to July 1997.

trade deficit with China was \$39.5bn last year.

SUNDERLAND PLC INTERIM REPORT FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 1996

On 24 December 1996 Sunderland PLC ("Sunderland") successfully listed on The London Stock Exchange and I am pleased to announce our first set of interim results as a listed company. The results relate solely to the business of Sunderland Association Football Club Limited ("the Club") and reflect the period prior to the listing. During the period under review, the Club began its first season within the Premier League. In anticipation of this we strengthened our playing squad over the period and have made an admirable start to life in the Premier League. Triday we are placed 14th in the league with 12 games remaining. Although there are some tough fixtures still remaining, we are well placed to fulfil our objective this season of retaining Premier League membership

placed to furth our objective this season of retaining Premier League membership

Turnover for the half year was £1,76,000 11995 – £2,513,000; an increase of 100% and profit before tax was £1,082,000

11995 – loss £1,640,000; a turnaround of £2,722,000. These vastly improved figures reflect, primarily, increased tecket sales as well as improved sponsorship and TV income as a Premier League club. The charge for players, transfer fees in the period has been reduced by £147,000 due to the sale of players. The results incorporate only seven of our nineteen home league matches of the season and are in line with our expectations and the profit forecast included in the Prospectus. As stated in the Prospectus, the Board is not declaring an interim dividend but expects to propose a final dividend in respect of the year ending 31 May 1997 of not less than 3.2p not per share.

tesbers of me year enging 31 May 1997 of not less	usan 3 p net per state.		
Last week we exchanged contracts on the sale of Completion will take place in our next financial ye completed towards the end of June 1997 giving us of the 1997/8 season. Our marketing efforts are pro	ar. Construction of our n sufficient time to comple	ew 42,000 seater stadium see litting out prior to the o	es on schedule to be
R S Muttay Chairman			28 February 1997
GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	six months to	six months to	year to
	30 November 1996	30 November 1995	31 May 1996
	\$*000	5000	£ 000
Типполет	5,176	2,51,3	7,166
Cost of sales Match expenses Ground and other direct expenses	(1.776)	(11,654)	13,762 v
	11.21(1	(897)	(2,302)
	12.989)	(2,551)	16,064)
Gross profit/floss) Administrative expenses	2,187	(38)	1.102
	1809)	(757)	11.552)
Operating profunities a before players' transfer fee:	1,378	1795)	1450i
Players' transfer fees	13311	1785)	11.812i
Operating profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before interest and taxation Net interest receivable/(payable)	1,047	11,580	(2.262)
	35	160)	(306)

184.6tp Earning-/Hossi per share sunderland PLC acquired the entire would share capital of Sunderland Accountion Fronthall Club Lamited ("the Club" by way in a share for share exchange on 25 October 1996, prior to that date and up to 30 November 1996 sunderland PLC did not trade. The only but move within Sunderland PLC group to the operation of the Club. Accordingly, the financial information become reflect, the trading of

11.640)

12,368)

12,3681

The injuriest statement has been prepared using the same accounting policies as the 34 May 1996 annual statement because Accounts for the policies and does not continue statement which the auditors made an inqualitied report have been delivered to the Register of Companies, and did not contain a statement under Section 2347(2) or 131 of the Companies Act 1985.

This interior statement has been prepared using the same accounting policies as the 34 May 1996 annual stantony accounts.

The financial information for the six months ended 30 November 1995 and 30 November 1996 contained within the statement of

I as assorting the with details set out in the Prospection, to differing dividend has been declared.

Examines per ordinary to share an Sunderland PLC have been calculated on the profit/fewer of the Company for the period and the copyratem number of charge, in usage during the companible period.

The net assets at 30 November 1996 amounted to £3,495,000. If the net assets at that date are adjusted to reflect the estimated not proceeds of the flottam then the net assets as 13 Movember 1996 would have arounted in £14,195,000.

This approximent is not being possed to starcholders. Shareholders, or members of the general public, can however obtain a cup, of the amounteement from the Company's registered officer Sunderland PLC, Roker Park, Sunderland SR6 95W.

per cent higher than a year ear-These shortages, rather than weaker demand or uncertainty The average house price in the UK reached £55,621, according to Nationwide, up from Terminal 5 planning inquiry, BAs chief executive, Boh £51,256 a year earlier. House price inflation has tivity, he said. ScotAm confirms

> said it had received just three firm bids, from Abbey National, the Prudential and AMP by the deadline of noon yesterday. There will now be two weeks of secret bilateral bargaining between the bidders, the ScotAm management and their financial advisers SG Warburg. ScotAm will then take a further two weeks before recommending the winning bid to policy-holders.

Jock Birney, managing di-

rector of Warburg's corporate

finance division, said last night

that no details of the individual

offers would be released with-

out the consent of the bidder.

night will concentrate on ob-

taining the maximum value for

Discussions over the next fort-

Clifford German

the policies. Preserving jobs in Scotland, however, will be only

Abbey National's initial offer made in January consisted of £400m in cash or shares for Scot Am's 1.1 million policyholders plus anything from £700m to

£1bn for the embedded value of the policies. Abbey National said it was willing to increase its

sighting offer but it is still not The Prudential's last public statement on its offer promised denied by Bundesbank offi-

banks to defend the lira

currency markets yesterday to support the lira and peseta after rumours that Germany was about to announce a delay in the timetable for monetary union.

intervened to defend the lira and the peseta against the mark. The lira fell to its lowest level against the mark since rejoining the ERM in November. Rumours that the Bundesbank was about to announce a two-year delay to EMU were

cials. Nevertheless, traders' con-

fidence in a broad-based euro

beginning in 1999 continued to

fall, and Italy bore the brunt of the market reaction. Italian futures contracts ended 2.29 points down at 127.50. Spanish, Swedish, Finnish and Irish gov-

998.50 lira to the mark. The currency fell during the day through the psychological barrier of 1,000 lira per mark to reach 1,001.50, its lowest level since it rejoined the ERM at a central parity of 990 lira to the mark on 25 November last year.

market report / shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4308.3 -30.9 **FTSE 250** 4654.4 **FTSE 350** 2314.0 SEAQ VOLUME

831.3m shares,

47,446 bargains

Share spotlight

strare price, pence

Videologic Group

Gifts Index

PowerVR news seems to defy the logic of disclosure

This may sound a bit naive, but aren't shareholders entitled to equal access to price-sensi-

tive information?
If a quoted company has an announcement to make about material things like current trading changes in senior management, or a significant deal it must notify the Stock Exch-ange. Otherwise a false market could be created in the shares.

But yesterday investors have scoured their screens in vain to find out why shares in VideoLogic, the computer chip designer, had sud-denly flickered into life. They closed 10p higher at 60.5p on hefty volume of 2.7 million shares, valuing the company at £90m. By the close of play, though, there was no still news,

no nothing.
Thankfully the Internet that indispensable informa-

- hearing the headline "NEC invests \$25m in PowerVR Games Program".

In a jumt statement Japan's leading producer of microchips revealed it would spend \$25m

(£15m) this year developing VideoLogic's Power VR chip which enables personal com-puters in run 3D graphics. There was also a broad hint that several other big computer companies would take orders

for the chips this year.

All interesting stuff, but why weren't shareholders told? VideoLogic argues some of the information about the NEC deal was already known and that it decided against making an announcement to the Stock Exchange after talking to SBC Warburg, its broker and fi-nancial adviser. For its part, the Stock Exchange is understood to be investigating an apparent



MARKET REPORT

stay above the psychologically significant 4,300 mark, but

closed just off the day's low at 4308.9, down 30.9. The main talking point was

NatWest, whose shares are set

to open sharply lower on Mon-

day after announcing shortly

after the market closed that it

PATRICK TOOHER

Keith Woolcock, electronics ware market - the largest in Euanalyst at Merrill Lynch, thinks the shares remain a steal on forecast profits of £5.4m for the rope - with a £40.1m acquisition. Wall Street influences dominated sentiment for most of the year to March 1998, implying session after traders shrugged off Labour's easy win in the Wirral South by-election. The FTSE 100 managed to

p/e ratio of 16. Those electronics companies that actually bothered to tell the Stock Exchange what was going on also fared well. Shares in Eidos, the computer games group, soared 75p to a record high of 1045p on news of a third-quarter pre-tax profit of £7.8m versus a £1m loss in the

corresponding period last year.
Also breaking new ground was accountancy software firm trader has been suspended pending the conclusion of an internal inquiry. Earlier, NatWest's shares had closed

0.5p lower at 758.5p.
Shares in drugs group
Zeneca tumbled fullowing
news that the US Food and Drugs Administration had issued a warning to the company following an inspection at one of Zeneca's plants in Mac-clesfield, Cheshire.

The FDA said it would not recommend approval of any new applications which list Zeneca as the manufacturer of sterile pharmaceuticals until the problems identified at the plant had been resolved. The sterile manufacturing area subject to the FDA inspection is a sophisticated plant responsible exclusively for a cancer

treatment called Zoladex. Zeneca's shares crashed by

Banks with interests in the Far East stood out. Standard Chartered hit another all-time. high, up 26p at 841.5p, while HSBC firmed 19p to 1582 ahead of Monday's results.

Television stocks were again an active sector. Speculation that a bid was about to be launched for Yorkshire Tyneer at 1272.5p with Granada, the obvious candidate, 21.25p weaker at 908.75p as a result.

HTV's good run continued on reports that it was forging a closer production alliance with Warner brothers of the US. The shares ended 11p to the good at 361.5p ahead of next week's results.

Shares in Henlys motored ahead, jostling for top slot in the list of FTSE 250 advancers with a 32.5p gain to 559p, af-ter the car dealership and

Taking Stock

illes the look of Low & Bonar the Dundee-based packaging

Granville says the forward p/e ratio of Li is too conserv ative and the shares should

Technologies, the computer ing 1996 profits by 129

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	10 1994 199	35 1996 1997	that indispensable informa- tion source – came to the res- cue, carrying a press release - dated Thursday, 27 February	to be investigating an apparent breach of disclosure rules. VideoLogic's shares could hit 75p on the latest news and		would take a £50m charge against first-half results after discovering errors in its inter- est rate options book. A senior	Zeneca's shares crashed by as much as 50.5p before re- covering to close at 1805p, down 33.5p on the day.	ter the car dealership and transport group unveiled 1996 profits of £33.3m versus £25.3m last time.	per cent to £1.3m and paying	
GOVERNMENT Securities 67 367 blayer in the City 1 23 30 30 30 4 1 2 30 40 5 1 2 30 4 30 4 30 4 30 4 30 4 30 4 30 4 30	1998-97 Stack Process of Part Control C Bevers 25 All	The color The present Th	CLIC. CATTYLING & DTESS Telesase - dated Thursday, 27 February Charled Thursday, 27 Februar	Description Property Description Des	Sage, whose shares jumped 31p to 617-5p after securing a foothold in the German soft- foothold in the German soft- search process of the second soft- search process of the second soft- search process of the search proces	### A PART	25 MUCh as 50.5p before re- COVERING to close at 1805p, down 23.5p cm the day. 1986	The index allows you to access resident. Share Price Data Prices are in striking succept where stated. 20 per cent, as a percentage of the street price divided by lest years servings per a Other details: or Extraints x Excluded makes at price divided by lest years servings per a Other details: or Extraints x Excluded makes at per per street, and a per per per street, and a per per street, and a per per per street, and a per per per street, and a per	per cent to £1.3 an and paying a maniden dividend of £1.p. The shares leaght 7p to 25p. The yield is bettyeart dividend, grossed up to pros. The priorise rings Priig satio is the share were excluding exceptional forms. Exist United Scornfee Mariette Suppender Stock Scounce: Fi information stock Stock Scounce: Fi information for the priorise day forms from London Stock Stock Scounce: Fi information for the priorise day forms from London Stock Stock Scounce: Fi information for the priorise day forms from London Stock Stock Scounce: Fi information for the priorise day for color at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at class the 4-digit cold when prompts do to a do at clas	
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OTHER SPOT RATES

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osing off 4300 70/39 103/71 127/90 160/112

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UK EQUITY & BOND

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Manifesto of a Coke can rebel

Joanne Muggeridge has shocked the badminton world. **Nick Duxbury** reports

e've all wanted to do it around and only Securicor's gento biffing the hoss, pouring a cold, sticky liquid over his head has its merits when the red mist of frustration takes hold.

Joanne Muggeridge, the hadminton player once sponsored by the equipment company Headstrong, employed the real thing in a way Coca-Cola would not approve of to end abruptly a meeting with the England manager, Steve Baddeley, in his Milton Keynes office. The incident eight days ago has passed into sporting folklore, but the 27-year-old Muggeridge, having spectacularly thrown open the foor marked "Bad Girl of British Badminton", is eager to slam it shut just as quickly.

However, it may take time.
All Muggeridge, a double
Commonwealth Games gold medal winner and twice an Olympian, wants to do is play for England. Baddeley wants the pesi players in his squad and Muggeridge, at No 30, is Britain's highest-ranked woman singles player in the world. So

why the spat? For a start, the Catford-born professional was feeling the pinch, having been dropped from the élite 28-strong squad, who have their travel and hotel hills paid for by the Badminton Association of England. A trip to the forthcoming Swiss Open will set ber back at least £500. Lottery cash is also about to be splashed

at some stage and next to biffing the hoss, pourBaddeley, who doubles as the director of elite play, took action after Muggeridge missed two grand slam events through injury and doubts grew about her fitness. Elite players are obliged to play in the top domestic events and the axe fell after she withdrew from the December tour-

"I couldn't believe it when I was

told I'd been dropped. I'd had a minor short-term injury." said Muggeridge, whose claim that her overall timess is fine is backed by a semi-final place in the Indian Open in January. "When you are injured it's bad enough not playing, never mind being told you're out of the squad. I couldn't play in the September grand slam because of a thigh muscle injury and in December it was my Achilles. There was no question of my shirking my responsibilities to

play those matches." The grand slam tour arrived at Mansfield last weekend and Muggeridge asked for a pre-event pow-wow with Baddeley.

It did not go well. "He told me that even if I played at Mansfield I wouldn't be back in the squad. Outside in the car I had all my kit packed ready to play the next day. I was so upset." It was at this point that a fizzy substance came into con-

Dagged by controversy: Joanne Muggeridge, with Bronte, at home this week didn't move, or say anything. He was quite surprised," said Mug-geridge, who, having also been

given a letter which relieved her of "all responsibilities and obligations' to the squad, flounced off to Germany to get match practice for the All England Championships which start in

Birmingham on Tuesday week. The decision by Baddeley, whose reflexes won him Commonwealth gold, to remain immobile was the correct one, according to Maryanne Henchy, the BAE spokeswoman. "He didn't react. It would have been a mistake if he had, but afterwards he was extremely upset," lact with Baddeley's hair.
"I was just so frustrated. He she said. On the question of Muggeridge's post-dunking image, she said. On the question of Mug-

Henchy added: "Joanne is no more difficult to handle than some others, but she has her own views and is a very strong-mind-

ed person.

Few olive hranches have been waved this week, but Baddeley has indicated that if Muggeridge allows her training to be monitored by the BAE and if there is an improvement in her fitness, she could be reinstated. We are not doubting her ability," he said. "She could be in

the world's top 20." A thaw of sorts continued with her response to a letter of support for the manager signed by 17 of the élite squad, including her England doubles partner. Julie Bradbury. The players interpretation by my fellow

"wholeheartedly" backed Baddeley for demanding that Muggeridge plays in grand slam events, follows a strict training regime and does not play in the German Bundesliga when required to play in England. The letter went on: "We hope that Joanne will recognise her misjudgement and do her best to repair the situation, for she is a talented player who we would like to see train hard and even-

tually fulfil her potential." In the latest of almost daily faxes to national newspapers which have kept the hrouhaha going, Muggeridge replied that in hindsight her "actions last weekend were capable of mis-

Photograph: Robert Hallam

players and this I deeply regret."

She will play in the next grand slam at Redbridge in April whether or not she is reinstated, but "the withdrawal of funding and support is so fundamental to my ability to compete at the highest level that I must continue to pursue the avenues of appeal open to me to remedy my present position."

Either on court, or off it, Muggeridge is competitive - a trait she has inherited from her father and coach, Vic, a retired fireman who has twice been in trouble with the BAE for over-enthusiasm at matches. There is a divide between her and Baddeley, but at least his hair should be dry by now.

British best seek lift-off for Turin

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Britain's best cross-country runners - with a couple of signifi-cant exceptions, assemble on a course next to Luton Airport tomorrow, all of them seeking liftoff to the World Championships in Turin in three weeks' time. Britain's success at the European Championships before Christmas, where Jon Brown

won the men's individual title and the women took the team silver medal, has raised the profile of a sport. Brown will not be running the trials, choosing instead to train at high altitude in Vancouver. Britain's top woman, Paula Radcliffe, will also

train at altitude in Albuquerque.
"We never expected Jon to be at the trials," Dave Clarke, the British team manager, said. "It was the same with Paula. We are in regular contact with both of them. Cross-country is very good at trying to support people of this calibre. We are desperate to field our top athletes so that we can

do as well as possible."

Other than these two, how ever, and the current national champion Jon Nuttall, who is making recovery from a shin problem, which is likely to prevent him competing in Turin, all the other leading exponents will be at Luton. They include Andrew Pearson, the 1995 European bronze medallist, Keith Cullen, last year's trials winner who reached the Olympic steeplechase semi-final. Roh Denmark the 28-year-old Commonwealth 5,000 metres cham-

top seven placings in Interna-tional Amateur Athletic Feder-ation World Challenge races and Andrea Whitcombe, one of the European silver medallists along with Elliott.

In a funny way, the races will be better without Jon and Paula because they will be that much closer,"-Clarke said. "It is a wonderful opportunity for someone to come and make a name for themselves."

That someone might be Christian Stephenson, the 22-year-old from Cardiff who made the top 30 in the 1993 World Junior Championships.

What would delight every neutral would be the sight of Glyn Tromans forcing his way into the team in what will be his

first serious race since 1995. Tromans, a Coventry lecturer had two major operations on his heart last year to seal a valve. Since then he has made 8 remarkable recovery, to such an extent that when he missed the European Championships last December it was because of calf trouble rather than heart trouble

TODAY'S NUMBER

8.67

The points amassed by English teams in the Liefa Fatr Play table, putting England at No 1. Associations, finishing in this season's top three will be entitled to an extra place in the 1998-99 Usia Cup, Scotland are joint 14th on 7,99.

OF THE

turning up at muddy training grounds for the rest of my life. Dave Bassett on his appointment as Notingham For-

est general manager.

Everyone can see it was nowhere Chelsea into the FA Cup sixth round.

Christopher Vincent is the repository of treachery. He is a serpent – no creator of Iterature could have invented him. He slithers forward to his riches, hoping you will do right by him. He might as well have taken the oath on a chequebook. Rodney Klevan, Bruce Grobbelaar's defence barnster, during

He told me to grow my hair long and t would get in the England side. I ask you, what sort of shit is that? Julian Dicks, of West Ham, on meeting the England assistant coach, John Gorman. Short of sending 8 couple of guys in halactavas round with baseball bats. feat at Rangers, on Brian Laudiuo.

i'm glad to be back. I went for a walk yesterday, and I must say I real-ly liked the renovated pedestrian aone. Martina Hingls waves lyrical back in her home town, Kosice, for the first time since she was three years old. .

2.00: 1. SPLENDID THYNE U Osbornel 9-4 fav; 2. Clinton 4-1: 3. Strong Tel 14-1. 16 ran. 9-5. if Casey, Upper Lambourni. Toto: £3.10: £1.50. £2.00, £2.50. DF: £6.40. CSF:

£12.95. Tno: £17.70. NR: Peers Folly. 2.30: 1. TOP JAYALIN (R Greene) 6-1: 2.

2.30: 1. TOP JAVALIN (R Greene) 6-1: 2. Majors Legions 6-1; 3. Personator 16-1. 9 ram. 9-4 lav Cardinal Rule 15th. 21, 2. 1. N Hawks, Chardt. Tote: £8.10, £2.00, £1.69, £3.30. F: £24.80. CSF: £40.14. Thrast: £909.34. Thro: £97.40.

3.00: 1. MWGS CHERRY (Clewebyr) 11-2: 2. High Alltitude 9-4; 6. Mister Oddy 4-5 tav. 4 ram. 11, 11, 11 Ott, Wroughton: Tote: £4.50. 0F: £5.10. CSF: £16.05.

3.30: 1. LORD MCMURROUGH (R Farand 6-1: 2. Ostic Rose 11-4 fav. 3. Hooded Hawki 11-2. 11 ram. 17, 8. U Newle, Newport. Tote: £10.60; £2.40, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £93.90. CSF: £23.51. Treast: £92.07. Two. £45.90. NR: Denham Hall.

4.00: 1. HOLLAND MOUSE (Mr C Vegrs)

4-5 tav. 2. Mise Millbrook. 7-4; 3. Clobracken Led 20-1. 8 ran. 12. 28. IP Charmets, Bas-rigstoker. Tobs: £1,70; £1,30, £1,30. DF: £1,60. CSF: £2,33. 4.30; 1. TANEAMEMO (J Osborne) 9-2; 2. Chross Star 5-1; 3. Safty Birl 20-1. 13 ran. 3-1 lav Infamous (fell. 5, 4 il 0 Sherwood, Upper Lambourn. Tobs: £5,10; £1,80, £2,50, £8,20. DF: £11,40, CSF: £27,67. Too: £105,70. 5,00; 1, STDRBW DARMET.

£105.70.

5.00: 1. STORMY PASSAGE (G Torrey)
9-2: 2. Lord Khathea 7-2 g fav; 3. Unshik-able Boxer 11-2. 7 ran. 7-2 g fav; 3. Unshik-lighter guilded upl. 9. 8. 0° Plobbs. Minefeed). Total: £3-90: £2.00, £2.10. DF £8.10. CSF:

E19.33. Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part won: pool of £3,873.63 comed forward to Newbusy today). Placepot: £103.30. Quadpot: £17.10. Place 5: £333.30. Place 5: £150.31.

KELSO

2.20: 1. KALAJO IB Storey; 10-1: 2. Desperate Days 12-1: 3. Two For One 5-1. 1. ran. Evers its Call Me Black (pulled upt. 15. 8. (B. Macraggart, Hawado, Toter £13.00: £2.30, £4.70, £2.10 OF £90.50. CSF: £93.84. Tro: £2.50.

195.84. The: 182.50.
2.50: 1. CLASH OF SWORDS (L. Wyer) 8-11.
fav: 2. Anthur's Germ 33-1; 3. Cry Saby 6-4.

lungle Fresh. 3.20: 1. OFF THE BRU (Mr M Bradburne)

\$\frac{1}{2}\text{0: 1. OFF THE BRU (MY M Bracourne)}\$
4: 2. Cellidh Boy 5-1; 3. Whast Fettle
10-1. 8 ran. 7-2 lav Judicous Captari Hell.
9, hri. (Mrs S Bracourne, Cupert, Totes: £4.80;
£1.70. £2.90. £2.90. DF: £12.50. CSF:
£22.09. Tracast: £258.61.
3.50: 1. MARELLO IP Nivent 1-2 (av; 2.
Star Selection 14-1; 3. Denne Point 4-1. 8

Star Selection 14-1; 3. Dana Point 4-1, 8 ran, 8, 7. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltourn), Tote: £1.50; £1.40, £1.90, £1.10, DF: £9.20 CSF-£8.20.

. 20. 4.20: 1. BGTIME (Nr M Bradburne) 5-2 fav; Royal Jester 4-1; 3. Howayman 100-30. ran. 12. 6. () Hughes, Galashetsi, Tote;

2. Royal Jaster 4-1; 3. Howayman 100-30. 8 ran. 12, 6. U Hughes, Galasthets), Totes 4,10; f1.30, f1.30, f1.20, DF; 55.60, CSF; 61.10. 4,50; 1. INGLETOMIAN (B Slorey) 9-2; 2. Elation 4-1; 3. Robiotacfalls 12-1, 9 ran. 5-2 fav Parlah 15th; 5, 2%, (B Mactagdan, Howich, Totes 55.50; £1.80, £1.50, £2.70, DF; £15.00, CSF, £22.28, Totast; £188.80. Tric: £49, 10

Nace 6: £65.39. Place 5: £19.87.

RACING RESULTS

FA UMBRO TROPHY Third round; Altrochan ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aviestury

Bishop's Stortford; Bromley v Enfi sey v Hichan; Dulvich v Harrow; r v Hendan; Purfleet v Staines; St All shalton: Sution Utd v Boreham Wood; Yeading v Yooul, First Division: Aldershoj v
Croydon; Barton v Basingstohe; Berkhamsted
v Abrigdon Town; Billencay v Molesey; Bognor Reigs v Carvey Island; Hampton v Marlow;
Mardennead v Leyton Permant: Thame v Chesham; Tooting & Micham v Libndey; Whyteleafe v Wolungham; Wortung v Watton &
Hersham, Second Division: Berling; Whyteleafe v Wolungham; Wortung v Watton &
Hersham, Second Division: Berling; v Hungsford; Bedford Town v Witham; Challorit Si Peler v Leighton: Cheshuni v Banstead; Dorlung
v Ware; Edgware v Brachnel; Egham v CollecRiow & Romford; Hernel Hempstead; Division
v Wittenhoe; Horsham v Windschreit; Sindam v CollecRiow & Romford; Hernel Hempstead v Wittenhoe; Horsham v Windsor & Etor; Metropoltan Police v Leatherhead; Tilbury v Wembley,
Third Division: Assety v Wealdstone; East Thurrock v Tring; Epsom & Ewell v Clapton; Hornchurch v Camberley; Kingabury v Braintree;
Lewes v Hertford; Socialal v Harlow; Wingster
& Finchley v Rackwell Heath.
UNBONO LEAGUE Promiter Division: Accrington Stanley v Winstord; Affreton v Chorley; Bosson Utd v Lancester; Bucton v Barrow;
Finckley v Manne; Gamsboudgh v Leek; Spenymnor v Ernley; Witton v Blyth Spartans. First
Division: Congleton v Legg Riftl; Cuzzon Asinor v Raddidle Borough; Eastwood Town v Farsley Calbo: Hornogale Town v Affreton; Lincoln
Urd v Worlangton: Netherfield v Fladon; Stocksbridge v Greina, Warmegon v Braofford Park Avernue; Whitey Bay v Droyleder; Worlesop v Greaf
Herwood.

PLUMPTON 2.10: 1. RHYTHM AND BLUES (8.Pow

el) 7-2: 2. Tonka 7-4 fav: 3. Into The Web 9-4, 8 ran, 6, 12, (R Bucker), Tota: £5,60:

£1.70, £1.20, £1.10, DF, £4.60, CSF

2.40: 1. INDIAN AFROW (C Maude) 11-8: 2. Court Master 11-10 lay; 3. Purbeck Cavalier 11-2. 6 ran. 15. 9. (M Pipe). Tote:

£2.00; £1.10, £1.20, DF: £1.80, CSF

6-1; 2. Dancetillyoudrop 5-2 fav; 3. Mis-ter Blake 7-1. 7 ran. ½; 8. (C Weedon. Tote: £8.50; £2.20, £1.50, DF: £6.70, CSF. £18.47.

3.40: 1. APATURA HATI (W McFartand)
7-1; 2. Normarange 11-8 fav; 3. Fortytwe Dee 20-1. 8 ran. Dist. dist. (R Amer.)
folie: £7.80; £1.40, £1.20, £3.70. DF:
£6.50. CSF: £15.37. Tho. £74.70.

4.10: 1. PM/DM (D 0 Sullyan) 16-1; 2. Winspit 4-1; 3. Beau Babillard 2-1. 5 ran. 15-8 fav Mammy's Choice. 3, 11. 1 Rowe), Tota: £12.70; £2.40, £2.60, DF; £22.20, CSF, £64.39.

4,40: 1. MAYB-MAYB (A P McCoy) 2-1

tay; 2. St Ville 7-1; 3. Bula Vogue 5-2. 7 ran. 6, 5. (J Neville). Tota: £2,50; £1.30. £3,70. DF: £9,50, CSF; £14.99.

Placepot: £44.10. Quadpot: £17.20.

Place 6: £46,49. Place 5: £40.72.

3.10: 1. ROSKEEN BRIDGE IM Richards)

Town: Time Bridges v Mile Call.

LMESPORT (UNITED COBINTIES LEAGUÉ Premier Division: Boston Town v Ford Sports: Cogenhoe v Wellingborough; Desborough v
Potton; Mintes Blackston v Eynesbury; Newport Pagnell v Bourne; St Neotis v Kernpston;
Stutfold v Long Buckby; Wootton v Holbeach,
League Cup third round: Northampton
Spencer v Suevarts & Lloyds Corby. Sperior V Stewarts & Doylis Corny.

Scriewfrix Direct Leasue Premier Division:
Backwell V Elmore; Barnstapte v Calne; Bidetord v Odd Down; Bristol Manor Farm v Chard;
Chappenham v Taumon; Tiretton v Mangussield; Tormgton v Westbury.

neor, romington v Westbury.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premiler Division: Belper v Matthy; Density v Hatfield Main; Glasshoughton Welfare v Holfam;
Huchall v Liverseage; Morth Femby v Amithorpe Welfare; Ossert Abxon v Amold: Pontefract
v Brigg Selby v Adrifield; Sheffield v Ossert Town;
Thackley v Pickering.

NORTH Messer accurate. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Atherton Collenes v Maine Poad; Black-

UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DI-

UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Anusled Vivice; Burgess Hill Y Pagham; Langney v Sutidoon: Calavood v Shoreham; Peaceraver & Telecombe v Whisehawk Portfetd v Horsham YMCA; Ringmer v Hassocks: Settey V Hasisham; Southwest v Eastbourne Town: The Bridges V Mile Calk.

GM y Cátheroe.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v Cowes; Andover v Aerosmuctures; Bernemon Heath v Romsey; East Cowes v Whitchurch; Easteigh v Winthorne; Petersheld v Gosport; Ryde v Downton; Thatcharn v Torson.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Division; Des v Wisbech; Felastowe v Windhom; Corlector v Wardboys; Lowestoft v Wardbor; Gorleton v Wardboys; Lowestoft v Wardbor; March v Hadleigh; Sudflury Wanderers v Bury Town; Tiptree v Great Yarmburh, League Cup somificale; Halstead v Hannich & Parkeston; Havernil v Histor.

INTERCINE SUPPRESS MIDIAND ALLIANCES

hit; Sendweit v Barweit; Shifinal v Rushalt; West Midlands Potice v Haisesoweri Hamers.
PEDERATION BRIEWIERY NORTHERM LEAGUE; First Division: Bedingson v Durham; Bitling-ham Synthones v Easingson; Crook v Tow Law; Gusborough v Murcor; Morpeth v West Auch-land; RTM Mexicastic v Seaham; Shiddon v Witt-by; South Shiekts v Dunsson; Stockton v Chester-le-Street; Whickham v Consett. League OF WALES, Abeysbuyth v Consett.

LEAGUE OF WALES, Abeysbuyth v Ebbw Vale;
Caemarion v Ton Pentre; Coerses v Bangor City;
Cemess Bay v Bany; Coembran v Consey; Finit
v Carmarthen (2,30); Ither Cobbe-Tie Carolin't V
Hotywell (2,30); Uansantifrad v Briton Ferry;
Porthrandron v Welshood.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blakenall v Blowich; Boldmere St Michaels v

Forumadog v vessapou.

SMIRNOTF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division:
Ards v Glentoran; Crusaders v Portadown; Glenavon v Caltandie; Infiliat v Coleraties. First Division: Ballymena v Ballydare; Caristic v Bangor; Lame v Ornegh; Newry v Distrilery. RESS & KNIRNAL HIGH AND LEAGUE- 9m. ra Rangers v Fort William; Eigin v Clachmacuddin; Kenth v Deveronvale; Rothes v Buckle Thistle.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Firm Harps v Home Farm Eventon (7.30); Sigo Rovers v Shelboume 17.30). PONTINS LEAGUE CUP Group One; Post-

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Rugby League

SILK CUT PLATE Second ro

Rugby Union

3.0 unless stated FIVE NATIONS! CHAMPTONSHID

COURAGE CLUSS' CHAMPIONSHIP National League Times Exeter V yeliney; Harrogate v London Welsh; Leeds v Weisalt; Liverpool St Heiers v Neveni; Odley v Fjder; Readwig v Chiton (2.50); Rossin Park v Morley; Wharfedsle v Redutth, Netbonal League Four North Aspathal v Stautbodge; Brimingham & Solthall v Kendolt; Herelord v Shefflekt; Lehflekt v Worcester; Preston Grasshoppers v Manchester; Sonidal v Stoke-on-Trent; Whoregon Park v Numeaton. Netlonal League Four South: Borling v Beny Hill; Met Police v High Wycombe; North Watsham v Comberley; Tabard v Charlton Park; Weston-S-Mara v Plymouth.

SWALEC CUP Seventh round: Treorthy v Bind-WEISH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Ebbw Vale v Cardiff (2.30); I kanelis v Casphilly (2.30); Newbridge v Neath (2.30). Second Di-vision: Blackwood v Macstag (2.30).

vision: Blackmood v Maesteg (2.30).

ANGLO-WELSN DIVISION TWO COMPETITION
Group A: Pornypool v Blackheath (1.0); Richmond v Cross Keys, Group B: South Water Po-lice v Covernty (2.30). Group C: Nottinghem v Abertillers, Group D: Biandovsty v Landon Soutish (2.30); Rotherham v Ystradgynlate; Rug-by v Bonymaen (2.0).

70189 Maryth- Erichmonth Academics s v Man. TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Academicals v Men-

2.55 TAURUS CLARWING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 370 1m

regate v Swalweit, Norton v Sourigleides Renganha v Neston: Southport v Ben Rhydding:
Imperiey v Sheffield Berhard.
WOMER'S PAINONAL LEAGUE Premier: Highmom v Balson: Lescester (12.0); Josefich v
Cation (12.0); Sough v Domester (2.0); Trojana
v Sutton Coddield (1.30). Flant Division: Biahora v Bradiond Swithenbork (12.30); Bractonelt
v Citon (2.0); Carterbury v Wirzbiedon (12.0);
Cheinreford Broadcok v Sunderland Bedong
(11.15); Second Division: Esing v Cit Loughtoniana (1.15); Earnouth v West Wings (12.0); Sherwood v Woking (12.0);
WOMER'S NORTH First Division: Cartes v Wel-

ROYAL AL-FAISAL WOMEN'S MICHAND Pro

blers v Aldridge; Kettering v Hampton-in-Arden; North Staffs v West Bromwich. ford v Harlaston Magnesi; Besleyheath v Savanokis; Gentinge City Pury St Edmands; Webyn Gentinge City Pury St Edmands; Wolfern Grown City v Ippaich. WOMEN'S WEST President Bournemouth v Ex-eter: Cowall v Cheltenham; St. Austell v Redfand; Winthome Wayfarers v Yete. WOMEN'S SOUTH! First Division: City of Portsmouth v Horsham; Reading v Hompsteed & Wastenster: Tulse His V Dulwich; Winchester v Worthing: Winchmore Hill v Southampton.

443132 APOLLO RED (7) (CD) 6 L Moore 89 5.....

120632 LORD SKY (2) (CD) A Balley 8.9 4

pion, Lucy Elliott, who established herself as No 2 to

Radcliffe this season with four

ING.
(7.30).

MOROWSKI PRESIDER LEAGUE Play-offic Blockburn v Prising (8.0); Dumition v Fin (7.30); With
land key v Castlerough (6.30). ion v Solfina (5.30); Te

Other sports

BOWLS: Women's English Nescrial Indoo Jonship (Yorld, SWIMMING: British Club Texas Chang

TOMORROW Football HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF MELAND

Rugby Union

Harring v Newbury.
WYELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Einst Division: Pr typatid v Svensoe (2.45).
ANGLO-WELSH, DEVISION TWO COMPETITE Group C; Bedford v Aberzion.

Basketball 7-UP TROPHY Flant: Charter Jets v London Tow-ers (6.45) for NEC, Birmingham). BUDWEISER, LEAGUEZ, Birmingham, V Dertry Storm (4.15); Newcostie Englier v Crystal Polace (5.30).

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Mid Sunsex v Liverpool (2.0): Plymouth v Notingham (4.0): Stockon v Coventry (4.0): Westminster v Water (7.0). ice hockey SUPERILEAGUE Play-offs Group A: Cardiff Dev-de VAc Scottish English (7.0), Group B: NOtington V Bracknett (7.0). PREMIER LEAGUE: Medway v Haggaon (5.15); Peterborough v Telford (5.30); Slough v Swadon (6.30); Soletul v Gestilbud (7.0).

Other sports BOWLS: Women's English National Indoor Cham-pionship (York).

Brooks upset over Club's press leak

Charlie Brooks has criticised media coverage of the Jockey Club's investigation into the running of his Man Mood at Warwick in November. The trainer discovered yesterday that there will be no official inquiry into the race in which Man Mood was pulled up by Graham Bradley when odds-on to beat

one other opponent.
Brooks said: "I was disappointed that the Jockey Chib informed the press that there was to be an investigation before they notified me. Most worry-ingly, it concerns me that details of the investigation were leaked

while it was still going on."
The Club's representative John Maxse replied to Brooks's statement: "We are sorry that Chartie Brooks is dissatisfied with the way the inquiry has been handled. The Jockey Club aspects of the investigation found their way into print. The Club has not at any stage re-leased information or made any comment regarding the nature or details of the investigation.



HYPERION

8LINKERED FIRST TIME: Noble Hero (5.00).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bellichorough Boy (2.57) wan at Southwell on Monthy: Squire Corrie (4.00) wan at Lingfield on Saturday.
LONG-IHSTANCE RUNNERS: Amico (5.00) has been sent 270 rules by C Thernton from Middleham. North Yorkshire. Touch a go (5.00) sent 270 rules by M Johnst on from Maddleham, North Yorkshire.

SOUTHWELL 2.15: 1. MARADI (R Multer) 4-9 lav: 2. Good Day 12-1; 3. Woodland Nymph 5-1. 7 ran, 3%, nk. (M Beth. Tota: £1.30; £1.10, £7.90. IP: £5.20. CSP: £6.35. £7.90. IF: £5.20. CSF: £6.35. 2.45: 1. GRAND CRU IA Cultanel 9-2. 2. Undawaterscubadiva 8-1; 3. World Without End 8-1, 3. ran. 6-4 fay El Nido

£2.50, £1.70, £2.30, OF: £20.80, CSF: £35.41, Tro: £35.50, £35.41. Tro: £35.50.
3.15: 1. CRETAN GFT (T G McLaughm)
12-1: 2. Bold Frontier 6-1: 3. Broadstairs
Beauty 12-1: 12 ran. 4-1 g favs Bold Effort, Stoppes Brow. 17., 6. IN Latmoden.
Tota: £17.40: £5.30, £2.60. £4.80. DF:
£64.60. CSF: £77.66. Incast: £836.64.
Tro: £216.00. NR: Etron Ladger.
3.45: 1. RAMBO WALTZER (fora Wards)
6.1: 2. Geouples Erin 14.1: 3. Chardleigh.

6-1; 2. Genuine John 14-1; 3. Chadleigh Lane 16-1. 13 ran. 9-4 fav Knotty Hill. 3/-. 2. (D Netodis), Tote: £5.40; £1.60, £3.40, £4.70. DF; £46.70. CSF; £85.36. Thoast: £1,234.18. Tho: £133.10. NR: Suez To:

4.15: 1. NORTHERN FAN (Dean Mohe

own) 3-1; 2. Flag Fen 12-1; 3. Desert In-veder 11-2. 7 ran. 11-8 fav Saras, Nr. 3. (N Tinker), Tota: £3.10; £1.90, £8.90. DF: (N Tinker), Tota: £3.10; £1.90, £8.90, DF: £14.70, CSF: £32.42. 4.45: 1 MAFTUN (D Holland) 11-1; 2. Klimamartyra Girl 10-1; 3. African-Pard 9-1; 13 ran. 2-1 fav kalamata (5th; 1. nr. (6 Moore), Totas: Es.60; £4.60; £3.10, £2.90. DF: £43.90. CSF: £108.98. Imp

ast: £960.72. Tno: £228.30 (part won). NR: Placepot: £1.926.90. Quadpot: £119.30.

LINGFIELD

2.20 Crackerbox 2.55 Misty Cay 3.30 Hurtleberry 4.00 Riffif 4.30 Royal Action 5.00 Noble Hero

Equatorack surface: left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjours course. ADMISSION: Members \$13: Panuly enclosure

	2.20	PISCES MEDIAN AUCTION (CLASS F) £3,300 added 31	MAIDEN STAKES O 7f
1	000-43	BON GUEST (18) T Naughten 90	
3	0000	CHEVAL ROC (198) R Harron 90	R Perham 3
3	500-503	TALISMAN (11) S Dow 9 0	W Ryan 4
4		CRACKERBOX (26) H Watery 8 9	
ā	03300-6	EMMA'S RISK (14) R riams 8 9	O Blace: 6
5	6	POLEWYNOE (35) 3 Smart 8 9	M Tebbutt 7
7	3-33633	- 7 declared -	
EE 12-	TENG: 7-4 -1 Polgaya	Bon Garet, 7-2 Cheval Roc. 5-1 Crackerbo ne, 16-1 Emmars Risk	z, Taisman, 7-1 Windborn,

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 7.00 Hompipe 7.30 Mysterium 8.00 Dragonjoy 8.30 Lawn Lothario 9.00 Super Rocky 9.30 Pet Express

(7.88), Rival Bid (visored) (8.88) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN HAYS: Lawn Lothario (8.89) won at

m)	NG-DIS ⇔ by Ci	TANCE BUNNERS: Panto Queen (8 00) has been sent 154 (Barwell from Stordleigh, Devon.
	7.00	MARYLAND MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 7f
•	00000-04	NATAL REDGE (12) O Hayon Jones 4 9 12 A Clark 9
2	55020-0	SAPTISMAL ROCK (12) 8 Outley 3 9 G
3	500 -65 6	YOUNG FREDERICK (8) A Surve 4 9 4
4	6/060-0	BARBARA'S JEWEL (26) 4 Bairs 5 91 D WHEN 8
5	0400000-	MEMBERS WELCOME (129) V: Turse 4 8 11
6	60040/5	HAPPY BRAVE (S) P Curses 586F Lynch (2) 4
7	054-003	BALLET DE COUR (8) 1 Etherngon 4 8 G
Ė	0.0-04	RECESSIONS OVER (8) (BF) N Littroden 685 76 McLaughan 11
9	3-03020	HORNPIPE (8) J Vitarior 5 9 4 France 5 8
10	000-	LOGLEY'S CERL (271) P Actory 380
11	544400	MUSTANG (8) CThariton 4 i 12Dale Gibeon 10 9

022111 BANGEOROUGH BOY (5) (3) TO BARON 9 1 ... 00- MAJOR TWIST (155) 6 Harron 8 13 ... 335512 BRCHANTENG EVE (12) (1) C Men 8 12 ... 00630-6 BE TRUE (23) (6) Moor 8 3 ... 660-246 OUR REVINE (7) 6 Pearse 8 3 ... 003-210 SHARP MOP (7) (CD) (BF) 6 M Rover 7 8 11 D Herthon Wil - 7 deciated -BETTING: 2-1 RMM, 9-2 Speedy Classic, 5-1 Squine Corrie, 11-2 Lord Sky, Apolli Red, 8-1 Walk The Best, 10-1 Sharp Imp 4.30 RAPPORTEUR STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f 6 04-1153 MISTY CAY (21) (CD) 5 Dow 8 2. A Daily (5) 1, BETTING: 7-4 Bailtobarough Boy, 5-2 Enchanting Eve., 11-4 Misty Cay, 10-1 Our Kovin, 14-1 Se Tron, 10-1 Major Twist 05060-0 AT LEBERTY (45) (CD) 8 Harrors 5 9 10. 3.30 LODESTONE PATIENT CARE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 6 303048- SCHMERWILLE WOOD (115) P Mooney 3 8.1. D S Hatchie 6 9 deciared — BETTING: Evens Royal Action, 7-2 Memory Best, 9-2 Might Wint, 5-1 Prince Description 18-1 At Liberty, 33-1 Summerville Wood. 5.00 LEO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 01000- INTERDREAM (124) 6 Hannon 9 7 40023-4 MORLE HISTO (5) J Sheehan 8 5 005-21 AMROO (11) (C) C Thomton 8 2 603112 STATE OF GOLD (2) J Hasheron 8 1 80-41 TOUCHPRES (12) M Johnston 8 0 0-04424 155 95FORLM (2) (5) F Libratogue Hell 8 12 50-0142 MERIODZA (21) (C) 0 Murray Smith 8 115 Dulliaid 8 E Dear McKeess 6 Minimum weight 7st 10th. The handley weight Spence's Revenge 7st 5th. BETTING: 4-1 Tatilos, 9-2 Hardisberry, 5-1 Rahis, Blue Pyer, 6-1 Cheek, 7-1 Daha Valentino, 12-1 Dances With Hooves, Beautad, 14-1 Spencer's Revenge _G Carter 4.00 KELVIN MACKENZIE HALF CENTURY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f 4651-03 SPEEDY CLASSIC (28) (CD) M Heaton-Sits 8 10 0 ... 1330-01. WALK THE BENT (40) (C) (D) M Meade 7 9 7... 3-01521. SQUIRE CORRECT (7) (CD) O Crepmen 5 8 7... 0540-11. RURIN (D) (C) R Inglan 4 9 7... - 9 SECTIFIC: 4-1 Mobile Hero, 9-2 TouchTiffo, 5-1 Amico, 11-2 Mendoza, 6-1 Xingo down Tris, Stato Of Gold, 10-1 Leg Beforen, Rose Barton, 20-1 interfreem 8.30 TABLE MOUNTAIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,500 added 3YO 1m 4f 04-3111, LAHRI LOTHARIO (S) M Johnston 8 12 (Sec 040-15 HEAD GARDENER (B) (EP) N Littmoten 9 2

GOING: Standard. STALLS: Tf outside: rest inside.

IRAW ADVANTAGE: High from til to 1m 4f.

Fibresand, Islandard. oval course.

III outside in Nofrom on A 449. Wolverlampton station 1m. ADMISSION:
Chib 5 (5: Taitersalls 56: [OAF members of Danmond Chib 5 4); Viewing
Bestaurant 255:30 uw lasting entrance and meal. CAR PARE: free.

8LINKERED FIRST TIME: Musclang (7,181), Young Frederick (visored)
17.001. Rival Bid (visored) (83.01)

7	7.00	MARYLAND MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F)	
	_	20,000 audeu 71	
	00000-04	NATAL REDGE (12) O Hayon Jones 4 9 12 A Clark 9	
?	55020-0	BAPTISMAL ROCK (12) 8 Oxfey 3 9 6	
3	2 011-02 0	YOUNG FREDERICK OR N Surve 4 9 4	
•	6/060-0	BARBARA'S JEWEL (26) 4 Bairs 5 9 1 D Wingst 8	
,	0400000	MEMBERS WELCOME (129) V: Turse 4 8 11	
5	60040/5	HAPPY BRAVE (8) P Curses 5 8 6 F Lynch (2) 4	
•	054-003	BALLET DE COUR (8) I Emangon 4 8 6	
ı	0.0-04	RECESSIONS OVER (8) (BF) N Lamoten 685 78 McLaughan 11	
	3.03020	HOPNPIPE (8) J Vaterior: 5 9 4 Financial Electron 5 8	
o	an.	LOGLEY'S CERL (271) P Aktory 380	
	300	MUSTANG (8) CThanton 4 i 12 Date @been 10 9	

— 12 December BETTIMS: 7-2 Ballet De Cour, 4-1 Matsi Rhiga, 5-1 Recessio 7-1 Baptisusai Rock, 10-1 Happy Brave, Mastang, 12-1 Seris Frederick, Members Welcoma, 20-1 piless 7.30 IRISH ROW LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,400 added 3YO 1m 100yds 8.00 MRAMI HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 1m 1f 79yds – 13 declared – TTING: 7-2 Suga Hawk, 9-2 Three Weeks, 5-1 Talbinia Belle, 6-1 Drago kitta, 10-1 Mylentoine, 12-1 Strat Bid, Whispering Dawn, 14-1 others

9	Splashed, 10-1 Megic Paz, 14-1 Fit For The Joh
onjay, 8-1	-7 declared - BETTING: 5-2 Pet Express, 3-1 C-Harry, 9-2 Abelone Queen, 5-1 Manter Foley, 8
(3) E	7 0105-46 ABSTONE QUEEN (5) (D) P Euro 8 2 R Males (5) 1 8
W Ryan 9	6 31-4464 FIT FOR THE JOB (11) (CD) T Wall 8 11 PaleCade (2) 6
Specific 12	5 51-4625 MASTER POLEY (17) (CD) N LIEMTODEN 8 13
Keong 1D	4 053-6 MAGIC FZZ (29) T Strengton 9 0 M Tebbell 8
Percent 2	3 0-11132 PET EXPRESS (19) (D) P Hastern 8 0Martin Dayor (3) 2
K Palica 6	2 433- SPLASHED (109) T D Benon 9 5
e (3) 13 V	1 0224-01 C-HARRY (24) (02) R Hullinshead 9 7 Funch (2) 6
5 (5) 11 Y	
A Clark 1	9.30 CHRISTIENSTED HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000
rativ (S) 6	CHRISTIENSTER HANDINGER ICH ACCOR CA COCO
diseas 3 V	
Langhija 4	Lone, 13-2 Boffy, 20 Ressystains
McCaba 7	RETTING: 7-4 Mytton's Michalm, 3-1 Little Bur, 7-2 Super Rocky, & Featherstone
	6 declared -
added	5 000-005 REPORTHOLINE (9) (CD) Herberton 8 8 11 Benedia (5) 2 8 633260 SUPER ROCKY (187) (CD) 8 Benedia 8 8 11 Delo Shecir 4 8
	4 03-8224 MYTTONS MISTAGE (8) (D) (BF) A Balley 4 8 11 D Whyle 6
, \$-1 Fear-	6 003366 FEATHERSTONE LAVE (S) (CD) Mas L Statut 88 11. D R McCabe 1.V
	2 304645 BUTT (24) (CD) 8 Baugh 4 8 11 kmp Wants (7) 3 B
K Fallon 6	1 613460 LITTLE SERT (22) (C) (D) P Gents 6 9 4
Men 50 4	access of
Riscoper 5	9.00 added 5f
yach (3) 2	9.00 VENICE SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000
	OCTIONS: 9-2 have received the uses automost 9-5 Vibrato (NO
±-3,400	- 2 declared - BETTING: 2-5 Lawn Lathurto, 7-2 Head Gardener, 9-2 Aspecto Lad
£3.400	3 0-12230 ASPECTO LAD (10) M Johnston 6 8
	2 040-15 HEAD CARDENER (\$9 (BF) N Littraction 9 2 A Daty (5) 3

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CLASS C SILLOGO MONTH Street of Street Street Control of the Contro MARWICK Mine of the Secretary of the Secretary Strong 115 Ambies Stelog, Mad

MONCASTEN

250 10" MARTIN MART

Despite the sale of the sale

The state of the s

The second secon

Control Service Control Servic

His Arts

Company of the second s 130 DIEPGALL MOVEL HAM

And the state of t

CASS C ESOLOGO MAN STATE OF THE PARTY will be clues this weekend about. Harrington, Space Trucker's

what to back at the Cheltenham trainer, believes he will almost

Festival, National Hunt rac-ing's raison d'ètre. For the poor The gelding is said to be in need

television viewer though there of the run and will hardly delight

final practice lap at Leopard- completes his serious prepara-

stown tomorrow under the tion with some work after rac-

watchful eye of a course exec. ing. The nine-year-old, who

the Champion Hurdle. The (Novices') Chase at the Festi-

The six-year-old is in single him over two miles round the

Champion Hurdle following chestnut's trainer, said yester-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

For some still dithering there

are seven moderate handicaps,

events which are the book-

First the good stuff. The es-

timable Space Trucker has his

ntive that may already be on for

management at the Dublin

track have brought forward

Space Trucker's event, the

Brannockstown Hurdle, so the

poor wee lamb will have virgin

territory into which to insert his

figures in some lists for the

NEWBURY 1.15: Nick Gaselee is quite capable of producing THE FROG PRINCE town after a long absence and this

stent sort, who has a fine

record here and is suited by this trip.

can outspeed Mely Moss, who may

need further, and outjump New-lands-General, who is unproven at

the trip. The wins of Too Pinsh were achieved in weak races.

1.45: TURNING TRIX did well last

time to finish fourth in the com-petitive Great Yorkshire Chase. In

entrast, River Mandate was sec-

ond of only three finishers here last

time, but now has Tony McCoy to give him encouragement. Smith's Band won on his debut last term.

2.15. SHERIFFMUIR and Rangi-

tikei both come here in fine form but the selection may be better suit-

DONCASTER

12.50: MORE DASH THANCASH,

particularly impressive when quick-ening to beat Shepherds Rest by an

easy 3'r lengths over 2m at Wind-sor last time, stays on a fair hand-

icap mark and can complete a hat-trick. Sea Victor, disappointing has fime, may still be the danger.

12.50 More Dash Thanca

1.25 Artic Wings 2.00 Whispering Steel

230 BANKHEAD (nap)

all enclosures). CAR PABE: Free.

SIS

ed by the easy ground.

or in the National States

D ----

Brocks upsi

ove Chi

press da

valuable hooves.

makers' raison d'être.

successes at Cheltenham and day. "Mr Mulligan is actually Newcastle which had the stop-ahead of schedule but the gal-

watch anoraks throwing their lop will put him spot on."

bobble hats into the air. It might

seem odd, therefore, that Jesses

in the soft going either. In Britain today the tarpan-

lins will be over the cameras at

Newbory by the time Mr Mul-

ligan, the Gold Cup prospect,

was second in the Sun Alliance

val last season, has not ran since

capsizing at Kempton's final

fence when on course to finish

runner-up to One Man in the

King George VI Chase. "Tony [McCoy, the champion jockey] is coming here and will partner

course," Noel Chance, the

HYPERION'S

1.25: ARTIC WINGS, driven out to

bear Whippers Delight by seven lengths over 3ml 10yds at Pakenham

on his most recent venture, should not be inconvenienced by the return

10 this shorter journey and can fol-

low up. In Truth may pose the most

2.00. WHISPERING STEEL, who

stayed on strongly to beat Kilcol-gan by three lengths over 3mlf at Ayr last time, clearly retains plen-ty of ability and can go in again. Le Melle, who looks reasonably treat-ed is rated the chief threat-

ed, is rated the chief threat.

2.30. BANKHEAD, who put in an-

other sound performance to beat'

Scotty by two lengths over 3m at Chepstow last time, will take all the bearing. Lockungrain, who disap-pointed last time, will be 8 hig dan-

ger if bouncing back to form.

000

CONCASTER

HYPERION '

■ Left-hand, pear-cloped course. ■ Course is 5 of town off the AA38 (M18 Jets 3 & 4). But thick treat Demonster Course

M LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: Mrs M Beveloy - 16 whiters from 77 romners at a ratio of 20.5% giving a return to a 51 level stake of -51.88; G Fichards - 8 winners, 35 numers, 21.1%, +55.73; D Nichodson - 8 winners, 41 numers, 18.2%, -52.5%, O Nichodson - 8 winners, 41 numers, 18.2%, -52.5%, O Nichodson - 8 winners, 41 numers, 18.2%, -52.5%, -52.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Society Times (4.10) sent 227 miles by D Noben from

12.50 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE HANDICAP HUNDLE

BETTIME: 12-8 More Deals Thincasis, 10-2 decience 1

BETTIME: 12-8 More Deals Thincasis, 10-30 See Victor, 11-2 discission, 6-1 Thornton Gate, 7-1

Descrit Fighter, 12-1 Champing GH, Uncle Dong, 16-3 Holders HE

1998: Albertane 7 10 13 T Kent 11-2 (Arts J Caci) B ran

1998: Albertone 7 10 13 T Kerri 11-2 (Airs J Cach B ran FORM GUIDE)

MORE DASH THANCASH looks good hereafter crussing up at Windsor a fortright ago. This fast-ground performer runs here insheed of Newbury and he rates the business with only Holders Hill below film in the Randicas. See Victor would be a big danger if his Newcest for run can be ignored. He thopped sway quickly after putting hard in Celestial Croix handle cop, but his previous nowice wins here and at Kerrapton stomped him as a useful recruit. Prov to Windsor, Nore Desh Thancash stayed four lengths clear of Glasmandria at Honding-don, Glanmorin now engloys a 135 pull, but he does seem to prefer more cut in the ground-so the form is likely to be confirmed. Charming the has flopped revice since her good Action and 11st 13th seas her is tack, and Undel Does also makes no appeal at the weights after pulling up at Wetherby. Desart Fighter, usually finds sometime to spring for him is a tinste, and Thorwton Gate is another to oppose at the weights despite a better showing in defeat against Goldings at Warreck lest time.

Selection: MCRE DASH THANCASH

1.25 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 addled 2m 3f 110yds £5,840

WARWICK

L30 Cheerful Aspect 2.05 Exterior Profiles 2.35

Sounds Strong 3.10 Ambidextrous 3.45 Reaganesque (nb) 4.15 Mr Darcy 4.45 Lord

GOING: Goed:

Left-land touse. Run-in of 240 yards.

Loore is W of city on B4005. Buses from stations at Warwick (im) and Learnington Sps (2m). ADMISSION: Club \$12 (16 to 24-year-okis 58); Tamersells 58; Course 55. CAE PARK-53.

BLINGERED FIRST TIME WIR IL LESE (VISITED) (4.45). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DESTANCE HUNNERS: BRIBES BOSSET (1.30) sem 168

1.30 WATERGALL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DNV I) E2,425 added 2m 4f 110yds

2.05 EXTERIOR NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 21-2214 DEERSH HIDE (22) (CD) D Nethodon 7 12 0 R Johnson 2 1-17-541 PRINKERS SKY (CD) (CD N. Handbasen 5 11 12 Jahr C Vignos (C)

niles by A Newcombe from Hentshaw, Devon.

4 Egenomis 285 C Abril 7 11 2 28 Dollan BAACT 180 6 11 2 90 AISHOCK LAD R Ares 5 11 2 640 URP. SORSERIT (38) B Prece 7 11 2

Refic 5.15 Melody Maid

sh 3.05 Niger's Lad 3.40 Blair Castle

4.10 Wynyard Knight

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chaser, will not be allowed to

Harding had expected to re-

turn to the saddle last Tuesday,

but has now learned the cir-

cumstances of his fall at New-

castle in December, when he

fractured his skull, mean he will

be off for 12 months. "When I

saw Dr Gerber he told me that

he would be recommending that I should have a year off,"

the jockey reported yesterday.
"I thought my fracture was

healing and I was feeling grand,

FIRST

SHOW

How they bet on today's televised races

Artic Wings, 9-2 Wee River, 11-2 Conti D'Estruval, 7-1

Frickley, 10-1 In Truth, 14-1 Real Glee, 20-1 Monnaie Forte.

14-1

7-1

12-1

FORM QUIDE

FOUR years ago EALING COURT starsed favouris for the Aircree burnper won by Nobre Field.

BETTING 4-5 styreted Rolling - 14 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 15 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 15 declar

3.45 C) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

15-300 THERENS TWICE [14] [15 IN Heritages 8 11 12 C Manage 1572541 So PROLID (255 (8) Also A Parent 12 11 5 ... C Manage 450005 ALTRINE DANCER (59) 0 Shewood 5 11 1 ... A MacGrety 8 352161 SEASON-SERVER (55) E15 P Liverty 5 10 13 ... L Aspell (3) 1-2420 Medi-Loui-And (59) Med H Regre 5 10 11 ... L Calledy 1-2331 SELVER STUMON D (25) (0) F Forest 7 10 5 ... S Myrms 6 1-2331 SELVER STUMON D (25) (0) T Forest 7 10 5 ... S Myrms 6 1-15 (15) E15 EF FERNA (14) (20) AG 1 Charles 6 10 6 ... R Administration of the control of the con

- 11 declared - Limit State (18 Can Can Maintain weight: 10st, True handless weight: Linden's Linno Set 118, Can Can

Crade St 110. BETTHE: 7-2 Resembled in 4-1 Lets Be Panis, 5-1 Sher Standard, 5-1 Alban Desce, 8-1 Min-Lou-trd, Siber Standard, 18-1 Can Con Charle, Edgestour Prince, 14-1 Sq Proud, 18-1 Thinking Twine, 73-1 Underth Lot-

4.15 WATERGALL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
(DIV B) 52,425 added 2m 41 110yds

1 3101-34 SILVER SHEED (76) (\$5) BP) Miss Veneza Williams 612 0

11 1440-23 CAN CAN CHARLE COS (D) 1 Peace 7 100.

ride again until December.

cilled in for Gordon Richards's but he said I had some sort of ter form with River Mandate.

leg tremor, which they called a

seizure, when I was concussed."

Richard Hughes if the Irish-

man's agent, Peter Harris, has

anything to do with it. Harris

stopped just short of marching

down Lambourn High Street in-

side a sandwich-board yesterday

that his client has not been

booked for more than his sin-

gle engagement in the Festival

bumper, "It's madness," the

agent said. "Richard's had so

much success on the Flat, in-

In front of the cameras at

Newbury, there are sound rea-sons to back RANGITIKEI (nap 2.15) in the most populated televised race of the day. Char-

lie Mann considers the six-year-

old will make an imposing

chaser next season, but his pro-

gressive form suggests there are more hurdles to be won first.

should confirm recent Rraces-

Home (Transcrivenstri)

Horse (Trainer/we-shr)

Rangitud (C Manny 1152b)

Slew Man (M Poe/11st Tb)

Ros Castle (R Hodges/11st5/b)

Salest Clef (F Jordan/10st98)

Soldings (G Price/10st12th)

tennegic (I For/11st)

edea (I Grioni/11s)

Le Melle IX Burkey 10st580

Sister Stephanie (1.45)

cluding Group One winners."

as he expressed astonishment

Harding's rides will go to

Rangitikei ready to ascend for Mann

EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE - 10-YEAR-TALE

EASTLEIGR HANDICAP HURDLE 10-YEAR TALE

10-Y

More Dash ThanCash

to cause rush at 5-2

Light infantry Plate Hcap Hurdle - Doncaster 12.50

Each-way a fifth the outts, places 1, 2, 3

Adhheum weight: 10st, That humaings weight Albanosis Form Set 40s.

METHOR: 9-4 Deading Cells, 3-1 Artic Weight, 4-1 Wen Rout, 6-1 Could D'Esterme, 10-1 Pricting, Mon-main Forts, 12-1 Sheet Steet, 10-1 in Treth
1898: Valient Warder 8 11 10 Ff Corpty 15-8 (M O Herberord) 10 Gen

posset; fallent Warrier 8 11 10 fl Gentry 15-8 (N 0 Hornmort) 10 me
PORRA CRUDE

Deathry Castle gues well when fresh and is some to some heart procure with the ground riding in
his tweat. His best form would seem good enough to lend this handlesp, but his didn't not
seed on the course lest seedon, admittedly over a shorter of a and my suggestion is old
PRECREXY, who had a werm up over hundles here lest Saturday. Over hundles throughout
lest esseen when he best hopen at Westhelby, Frickley has extended to Condon Pichards after that spell with Fordy Murphy, Frickley shows soom to do best when fresh and his was a
winner on this course in his novice chase days. New River put in a fine affort against Certainly Strong at Sandown affect his Neiso win from Regal Romper, but the big weight may
best han spelly. Artist Wingle won eneby endugh at Fakenham last time, but this a much
stronger spell over it from possible of the sharp side for her. Resel sides and Monomer Forter
are support jumpers under pressure, but there are possibilities about Cond D'Estraval with

2.00 VELKA PAROURICKA GRIMTHORPE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3rd 2f £10,192

1996; Astingum Boy & 10 8 M Dayer 11-2 fill Richards 12r an FORM CUIDE.

FATHER SKY, formerly a smart hundler, has been a bit his-end-miss over formed, but he kept on well behind Meatheweaming on the course in December which both were a long way out of the hardicip in objection to Scotton Banks. Jamie Optome takes over from Immry Meature of Printer Sky enjoys an Sko Just for the longth besting — and fines up after a nice comitience booster in a small race at Southwell. Meastheweaming is egien the one to best with the ground to this liking. He has twice won on the course and this Grand National contender defied the big weight own a longer trp at Whitch last time. I explod of course by the departure three out of Christmas Goras. Le Mealler has really real against Coll it A Day the departure three out of Christmas Goras. Le Mealler has really real against Coll it A Day and Pilva Mandates at Newbury last time and the yeas tomaphy a belonded sort when with Alan janus. Whilepeding Sheel has returned to conceining like his old ability and is still very well his nidicapped. The Ayr winner last track would prefer solver ground, but a good run can still be expected in this grade. All's Affail is difficult to costs night nowdoys and we better for the booking of Paul Carbony.

Solection: FATHER SKY

2.30 AR POWER PRODUCTS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £6,800 added 3m 110yds £4,711

(CLASS B) £6,800 added 3m 110yds £4,711. [AMS5]

1 PRO-10 FRED BARH (38) 65s J Farshwal J Farshwal 9 12 0 P Carborny

2 11PRJ BARNESS (14) (0) (Ms (6 States) J Specing 6 11 13 BARNESS (25) sealing (7)

3 111I20 LOCHAGRAIN (25) 60 (15) 60

3 6-30/21 THE NEWSHOOD BEST (AD) 6 Badding 9 11 9 _____ X Feature 5 (21) RT-Durent 7 11 9 ____ T 2 Marphy 5 (44-87) 1. BADDWAR (25) (63) R Hardward 7 11 5 ____ R Vallent root 6 (04-243 AMBSET WALLET (USA) (24) C Wilsons 6 10 10 _Aug Lumbs CR 7 16-2662 ___ DWAL 64M (LG) R O'SUMMO B 10 8 ____ P Holley Lumbs CR 8 (26-124 MARRET) (22) R Airs 3 10 8 ____ S Markett 8 (06P32 STROKESAMER (LG) C Books 7 10 1 _____ J Collect 8 ____ 9 (6-6) Review f ____ 9 (6-6) Review f ____ P Markett Bart, 11-2 Drawn Bide, 6-3 Enterior Profiles, Josef Man, 7-1 Whirty, 8-1 Plumber Bary, 12-1 Strokessower, 20-1 Review Valley

235 CRUDWELL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m 5f

3.10 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m

1F-SFS RELESTRY (20 H Mennes 11 11 20 1F-1F1B SOUNDS STRONG (SS) O NICHOSO B 11 8 11-FFP MRZZARO (LA W MAN)

GNASE (CLASE 8) 2.15,000 addied 3rd 21 1.10,135

1 970-21 Westpense Stell, Cti (I Monet Giber 6 Romes 11 11 10.

1 1-744. Mestivalensiyes (25) (CD) PR 0 Penterus (10) D Mohaton 11 11 5.

3, 13222 FRIVER SIC 89 (George Northeld 0 Stemanol 6 10 11.

4 2423 MCS MLS (SE) (SE) SI (SE) Remain is fixed to 10 10 9.

5 2PPAR 1 MESTIV MASTRE (CS) (CR) B Lancaud 6 Noon 11 10 6.

6 212443 IC MESTIC (22) (SP N 1 Mestre) No Stell 8 10 5.

7 P1-1343 CHANGE (THE REMAIN (MI) (D) C 0 Novinch lake A Embassy 10 10 3.

8 SALDO PRIS SUNNER (21) N G Chappel M Parmard 9 10 0.

6 declared with 10s. The handles weight Pin George 7 7.

6 Section - 3-1 Le Mastle, 7-2 Mestivalenals, 4-1 Wilder 18, 5-2 Father Sig, 11-1-1 (Chappe The Belgs, 18-1 Plant George 7 25-1 Mestry Mastry 1890; 8-2 Father Sig, 11-1 Sign Address Boy 8 10 8 M Dayer 11-2 (E Rotterd 1 Line)

FORMS GLOBE

8 OF SPIEF MONRAGE FORTE (15) (D) (SE) Unions R Adam) J Adam 7 10 0

The ride on another Gold

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Rangitikei

(Newbury 2.15) NB: Le Meille

(Doncaster 2.00)

Cup aspirant, Addington Boy,

will be in the jobs vacant column

following the news that Brian

Harding, who had been pen-

More Dash Thancash is a top-

priced 5-2 with Coral - William

Hill go just 7-4 - for the Light

Infantry Plate Handicap Har-

dle (12.50) at Doncaster. All's

Alibi is 5-1 (Ladbrokes) - the

Tote go 7-2 - for the Velka Pardubicka Handicap Chase (2.00)

at Doncaster. The Tote bet on

the Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy Handicap Chase (1.25) at Don-

caster: 9-4 Destiny Calls, 100-30

lore Death Theoreach (M. Jones 10st8

Thorston Gate (T Easterby 11st Ph)

Desert Fighter (M Reveloy 10st10b)

Charming Girl (D Sherwood/11st13lb)

Uncle Doug (Mrs M Revoley 115111b)

Holders HIR (M Mengher/10st/3lb)

amoria (K Morgan/1.1s(4b)

as Victor U.L. Hams/11st4th)

Horse (Trainerhielets)

NEWBURY

1.15 The Frog Prince

2.45 Angeio's Double

Left-hand course, with still lences

1.45 Turning Trix

2.15 Sheriffmuir

but the first race is more diffi-

cult to evaluate. The accidents

that have been occurring to Too

Plush's opponents might tempt

some to look under his forelock

in search of three digits. Unless

something diabolical happens

again, his race should go to the

At Doncaster, the most valu-

able event can go to Le Meille

(next best 2.00), who appeared

to have recaptured his form of

last season when third to Call

It A Day at Newbury last

month. That was in the Cathar

Pacific Airways Chase, which

somehow sounds more salu-

brious than today's objective of

the Velka Pardubicka Grim-

Another possibility is Our

Kris (2.30), wno fell when fan-

cied for the Triumph Hurdle. He has since appeared to enjoy

racing as much as eating class,

though there was a glimmer last

time that his competitive ap-

:00:30

Total

43

9-1

12-1

25-1

18-1 :0-1

petite had returned.

100-30

Corel William Hill Lectorokes Total

Velka Pardubicka H cap Chase - Doncaster 200

4-1

destination and in the Control of th

Each-way a fifth the odes, places 1, 2, 3

Eastleigh Handicap Hurdle - Newbury 2.15

Each-way a guarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

starting Syburity of Newbury last time, but he couldn't quicken from two out and was best-en ten languis into time by Basidanad, who followed up in the mud at Chepsiow, Earling Court could last out the trip better on this course and a 10th pull with Banknead is certain-ly a big help, Lachanagana was hard to lancy in the Sandown race won by Tuthmumy Tof

ly a big help, Linchemigratis was hard to fancy in the Sandovin race won by fullymumy Tof (Eszaglin) was the islable's number one) and this is more his math. He notched a hist-thol

Estanglint was the stablish number one) and this is more his matri. He notified a hat-trick during Rosember and December and his second to Livio at Cartisle (2m-16) was another fine effort one a trip on the short pide for him. Sheet Banks also faced a stem test with 11st 4b in the Sandown race, but this decent look much passer under the 12st over a longer trip, facility these has turned in two poor strewings at Wetnerby since his Newcastle with one Traillywagger, it should also be noted that Lockmaghan best Tallywagger by a water margin at Katso in December. Seatist Too but up a spirited effort regards the bottle-on-Sheet Standard at Statistics – a run that will have interched him. He lines to run from the form, is well hand-coapped on his Chestenham and Haydicok wars and went plose in this tace last year, Awai-

3 05 PARDUBICE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

— 11 declared —
ESTIPME: 10-11 ligger's Lact, 13-8 Secret Service, 7-1 Loop in The Duck, 10-2 kms The Swing, 25-1 Longhing Fortains, The Wares, 20-1 others
1899; Slone Avery 5 11 10 G Boodey 8-15 p A Belding 8 cm

3.40 HMS ANDROMEDA NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,527

~ 7 doctored — leETWAL 5-4 Shair Castin, 13-8 Schlämb Fellow, 5-1 Royal Cricason, 5-1 Signo Run, 10-1 Jost Bruce. 13-1 Shame, 20-2 Great Gabin 1998: Caston Bay 7 11 8 G Bradley 1-4 (O Shewcoch 5 ran

4.10 TOWN MOOR STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS

CHAUMSTORD STUDENT ARTHUR PERFORM VALUE FL.

LINCOUS CHAUGE Usings Racing 1 Car 5 11 3

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WHAT AND RESENT (CAR 1 SEVEN-BOARD 1 LIZ 6 11 3

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ADDUS (ABLES MAN LIZ CO) AS SUCH CHAUGE 1 11 2

ADDUS (ABLES MAN LIZ CO) AS SUCH CHAUGE 1 11 2

ABBLUS (Mes I, M Hedhad) I, Uoyd James A 10 9

O DIS FOR GOLD (SS) (C Prais Mes S Hat 4 10 9

O DIS FOR GOLD (SS) (C Prais Mes S Hat 4 10 9

O LANGUER (31) (Stador Developments Limited) J Horton 4 10 9

O LANGUER (31) (Stador Developments Limited) J Horton 4 10 9

lan, 25-1 Audeson, 68-1 Will It Last

14 GTSP MINER RESCOT VISE & Gord 4 10 2 ____ B Feet

- 14 fectores -SETTING: 7-4 El Freccio, 9-4 Mr Davy, 13-2 Amber Ring, 10-1 Manusi Susmell Sec, 12-1 Charles Bigline, 15-1 Sile Me, 25-1 Cloric On Street

4.45 TOWN OF WARWICK TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 3m 2f

SETTING 8-11 Land Redic, 7-2 The Matakarpes, 5-2 Cappaigne, 8-1 My Young

5.15 EDSTONE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 addied mares 2m

10 O NEMBLY A SCORE [25] 6 Berong 5 11 4 ______ B Persion
11 O OVERROPORT [17] A Horsey 5 11 4 ______ B Rehands
11 5 OVERROPORT LADY (51) N Process B 11 4 ______ I Rehands
12 PROCESS THE PRESERVE MS S Repartson 6 11 4 _____ I Relately
13 PROCESS THE SECORD C Browd 4 10 10 _____ Related Gases,
15 CERTS THE SECORD C Browd 4 10 10 _____ A Related Gases,
16 ELIVANI MOON MAS Gay Network 4 10 10 _____ A Related Gases,
17 3 GOLDEN LET (25) Mas Gay Network 4 10 10 _____ A Related Gases,
18 DEPACOLS BR PLEAS (7) I levins a 4 10 10 _____ A Related Gases,
19 NEWSKETE POST B Makedon 4 10 10 ______ A Repart [16] C Desec 4 10 10 ______ A Related Gases,
20 0 PROPER PRIMATIVE [14] C Desec 4 10 10 _______ B Related Gases Gases

POTTER ARAR (22) O NORTHER 5 11 11 ____ R Masser 65

POTTER ARAN (22) O NOTICEN 5 LI 11 ___ R Massey (5) COMMANDO CLUB (15) 9 GRESSEO 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON CORDAMACHEL SSO A NEWS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON POLESCIAVE (35) 1 May 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON POLESCIAVE (35) 1 May 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON HANGE OFF MELIE (15) C Acison 5 11 L ___ O Burrous (5) HELLS PROTE J RECOVERED 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (15) C ACISON 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (15) C ACISON 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (15) C BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (25) G BURROUS 5 11 L ___ A TROMBON MELIE (15) A TR

113004-1___THE MALAKARMA (28) (CD) tass C Sounders 11

H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,035

___ 34r 7 J Barry 57

1. SECRET SERVICE (228) (Duy Recot) C Thorston 5 11 8...

QUOLITY BROOK OF DREAMS (389) (Net 8) Lockward J O'Stree 9 11 2...

PRO THE SERVINE (F I Sourchard) for sheep a large 8 11 2...

(35-612 (LAISHMAN FORTUME (7) (THE LAISHING SHOOT) F HAVINY 7 11 2..

333203 (LEMP M) THE DAMIK (25) (Net 0 1 Mornto Meet, Usedan 8 11 2...

EASO-30 (REP M) THE DAMIK (25) (Net 0 1 Mornto Meet, Usedan 8 11 2...

THE WAST PARS J M COTICULI I HOUSE (Artiston 5 11 12...

DOISH C. MANSPERS M. MINESTER (7) (Meet Score) Barri O Moliso 6 50 11...

PP BALLY WORDER (25) (Meet E H Health) Meet E Health 6 10 11...

BOO MEET NOWEE (LAID) CHES LAIM SHAP! Meet I STORY 5 10 11...

LI deschared -

D-151AS SUBJANE PELLOW (85) DF (Pary McGran) N Hernderson 7 11 12—
30-4351 JUST BRUCE (15) (A M Heart Mis E Heart 8 11 7—
1551P SHIMA RUM (22) IN W Bell & Son Left J 0'Shee 8 11 7—
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0FF-IP SHIMA RUM (22) IN WHO THE PROPERTY O Mother 8 11 7—
0C50F SHELT SALE (21) Detried Rectify O Mother 8 11 7—
3501-52 FORDER (54) Centrel Rectify O Mother 8 11 7—
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7 doctored—
6 Treats 4-4 Nair Causta 11-8 Studytone Rectify 5 1 Royal Cytomore, 5-1 Signar R

vies his ground, unitie or Haydock ast time, though his wins early term were all races. Selections EALING COURT

Whitepering Steel /G Recharity 11 of Chin 3-1 200-36

Father Sky (0 Sherwood/10sz11b) 4-1

AF's Albi (Mrs M Reveloy/10:19th) 4-1

Plans Genner IM Hernmond/20st 16-1

Merry Menter (G W Moore/10s/6tm) 50-1

Sherithasir (Mrs L Wagnery)11st7b) 4-1

Contact Express & Streeter/119751 8-1

Shopherds Rost IS Metor (Ds:56) 15-2

Chief Connection (M Williamson/11st10k) 20-1

Moving Out (Mass H Krught/11sr100) 33-1

Hippor Reed (T Hend/10st7lot

Change The Roles (A Embrans 10st3th) 11-1

thorpe Handicap Chase.

ex-French Mely Moss (1.15).

HYPERION

Exercises Courses were near ATA, Station Perfore from Landon, Paddington, adjoint course, ADMISSION; Members 14 (Juriors up to 17) is free; Tattersalls 58; Silver Ring 54 (DAPS half price). CAR PARE, Free, Piene area 54 per car plus 54 per person.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 29 winners from 113 run-ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: B Micholina — 20 winners from 113 runners gives a surces ratio of 2.7% and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$1.7). N Benderson — 21 winners, 103 runners, 11,7%, \$27,7% affige — (4 winners, 88 runners, 16,7%, \$17,1%, \$1,26,4,7%, \$1,26,4,7% affige. — (4 winners, 18,26,4,5,3,3,4,0). EleaDING JOCKETS: 3 Ochorne — 38 winners, 118 rides, 25,7%, \$9,40, E Dentilla Company of the company

Examines and animes unsorne — 100 winners, 118 Index, 25 7%, 450-40; E Den-woody — 34 winners, 128 Index, 26 (%), 451-129; A Magaire— 19 winners, 112 Index, 17%, 451-725; P Bolley — 61 winners, 65 Index, 20%, 459-70. SLECCESED FIRST TOKE: Gordon (2.55); Allow, Duker Caulle (£15); I Recall (w-

sered (2.54). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Potato Man (1.15), Toshiba Rouse (3.15) & Toshi

ha Talk (3.56) have been sent 291 miles by B Ellison from Lanchester, Co Durham.

1.15 NORTH SYDMONTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS BBC1 C) £6,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,497

Description of the second of t

FORM GUIDE

The French import MELV MOSS, who inseed test season because of a leg injury, won a rundle and a chase at Auteuri as a tour-year-old and landed a gamble - 9-1 to 4-1 - on its British debut at Urtoweler in January, coming home by 14 lengths under today's weight of 15st. Chade Egenton's charge, gwing weight to the first had when third behald Brave Brazoneer and Camebrick Hingh under the same quicers at Tou-season, is open for third bravened as so and can return to winning form here although it will not be easy gwing 10th and more all hound. Perhaps the pick of Mely Moss's four noise will be The Froig Phinose, even the is sufficient and as some a Manarch that behand Old Braggs and Enore Im Pau past over a year ago. He nod only four ourings in 1995-96 and was number up two two e- bestien a length and a half by Easy Buck over course and distance in the first of them and a season to the first in Append. The Plusth, who spanked a hall-mick when beating Lake Of

over a year ago me note only have booker course and distance in the first of them and a nead by Uncle Eli at Ascot. Too Plusth, who spanied a nat-mck when beating take Of Loughrea five lengths at Windsor in November, was one of the fuctoest winners of the season at Windsor in November, was one of the fuctoest winners of the season at Windsortin, where he would have been a remote last of time finishers except for Pive To Seven and The Mine Captian both being hampered by a loose horse which caused them to refuse. Too Plush completed the time-timer at Sandown but he was lett in the lagd when the odds-on Sanyhough came down at the 13th and was all out to master No Pain No Cain, the only other finisher, by more than two lengths. Newlands-General been a solitary most in Thumbs Up at Winconton last time and the numer-up went on better at Humingdon last week.

Selections MELY MOSS

FORM GUIDE

An interesting remarch here between SISTER STEPHANIE and River Mandarte, who fought out a close finish over a hirtong further at Towoester four weeks ago, victory going to the torner by haif a length. Sester Stephanie. *Given a time* noe by David Bindgwater, took plently of time to get on top but she should improve for that race, only her second this seation, one her stable is in form. She can again have the edge on 2th worse terms, flow Mandate, who sports the Arkie colours of Anne Duchess of Westminster, missed last seating.

Mandate, who sports the Arkie colours of Anne Duchess of Westminster, missed last season wher going immugh the previous season unbestern in three starts. He went in at Bangoing in November on his comedack run and hisshed runner-up for the third time in a now
when going under a length and a quarter to Call it A Day over the extended three and a
quarter nere three weeks ago. Turning Trix stayed on strongly to justify favoritism as Newcastle at the end of November and, although well beaten when fourth to Go Batistic at
Ascoti, was not discredited in towing the same placing agenst General Command in the
Great Yorishine. Smalth is Band won his first two starts before toppling over in this Of Tullive's rise of Sandown lost season and came good again next time when gamely mastering Tougood To Be True by half a length at Haydoos. Jerrity Pathion is charge is on 12st
on his first appearance since running an Horm Scotion Banks to not a length in the Pet Allersh Chase on a naturn to the Lancashine track 406 days back but could prove trou-

ter Marsh Chase on a neum to the Lancashire track 406 days back but could prove the

2.15 EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) BBC1

SHERIFFMUIR, who won on the first for Luca Comain in 1992, gained consecutive we turnes at Window and Lingfield last term and comes here on a hart-trick after going in a Lecester - defeating subsequent scorer further two lengths shouldering 125; - and under a 7to penalty in an emisteurs' event in Humangdon. The eight-year-old races of a 5th higher mark but might well progress further and can complete the halt-trick, though their are several dangers, not the least of them being Rangittled despite in a 8th-time since last

are several dangers, not the least of horn bring Rangifiked despris his 8th-rice sanct less brine. Charlet Millam's change challed up his thrift success of the season when beating Next Feat eight lengths over course and distance brief weeks ago with a longue strap fitted for the first time. He goes have in preference to the openier at Docassins. Golden-go goes off a riting only 2th higher than when he won at Warwick, while flegtins, who scored first time up in 1595-36 but was unpieced on his only other stant then, could also pose a threat desprie he lay-off. Cheff Comedition, formerly trained by Arthur Moora and now in Mark Wildinson's yard, was 17 lengths off the numer-up when taking minor hom-ours to Teneen at Humingson in November on his British debut and has in do durided too weeks today.

2.45 LACK O'NEWBURY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,928

BETTING: 5-4 August's Double, 5-2 Flight Uestpannt, 7-2 Campache Bay, 5-1 Madistan County, 19-1 Gordon, 33-1 Sylo Echo 1998: Solden Spriner 9 11 12 M A Fragerald 8-13 (N Henderson) 6 ran

3.15 SCUDAMORE CLOTHING 0800 301 301 'NH' NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f £3,467

DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f £3,467

11125 ALIW (18) CD; (8) M/s M Lendyn B Lendyn 6 117 _____ D I Kremnigh (5) B
2/2321 PERCE (1080) (15) Sir Plear & Loy Goongs Max D (4per 7 117 _____ J. F Ridgy
13-451. BYRUNG DOUBLE [122] M/s Lorn Benyman N Traph Double 8 117 ____ L Harwilyn
DFD DIMES CASILE (124) Alex Lorn Benyman N Traph Double 8 117 ____ L Proot B
00.3 FESCHON MANCER (89) (1 B Surmer) M/s (1 McGe 7 11 2 _____ J. Filter
21 A PROPLING THE FICTS (14) Max S Faboria N Herolecon 8 112 ____ J. Filter
21 A PROPLING THE FICTS (14) Max S Faboria N Herolecon 8 112 ____ S. Filter
43-31 HALOMA (18) (M/s Z S Cachi C Brooks 7 11 2 _____ S. Filter
43-31 HALOMA (18) (M/s Z S Cachi C Brooks 7 11 2 _____ S. Filter
43-31 HALOMA (18) (M/s Z S Cachi C Brooks 7 11 2 _____ S. Filter
13/33.5 PROFESSOR PARE (14) M/s Cool Sign; C Thronton Jones 7 11 2 _____ P. Mide
10/23-5 WRYASE (LARET (18) M/s J N 1 Octoberson S Meter 6 10 11 _____ N Marrie
10/2007 TOSHISA NOUSE (71) Gestion (M/s Lot) & Belson 6 10 11 _____ N Marrie
10/2007 TOSHISA NOUSE (71) Gestion (M/s Lot) & Belson 6 10 11 _____ N Marrie
15-1548: 15-8 Fedding The Facts, 3-1 Feder Lord, 4-2 Halone, 5-1 Spring Domble, 7-1 Allow,

BETTING: 15-8 Finding The Facts, 3-1 Feator Lord, 4-1 Halone, 5-1 Spring Double, 7-1 Allow 12-1 Victorio Clavet, 14-2 Professor Proje, 33-2 others 1990: Anthreo: 6-11 7 R Facart 2-1 Mas J Petrum 19 ran

3.50 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,566

4.20 THATCHAM STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,324

GENERAL FOR THE RULT (200) IF 6 Members 1 Mules 6 11 2 ...

DENISARSO (20) U. Dunloy I Dunloy 5 11 2 ...

MONINGUTH WAY 217) (Ans. V R. W. Meter P. Chemings 5 11 2 ...

RED CURATE (Mrs. M Turner & Mr. C. White) G. McCount 6 11 2 ...

RED CURATE (Mrs. M Turner & Mr. C. White) G. McCount 6 11 2 ...

5 REVER DAKIN (14) (Diplants Brooklock C Brooks 5 11 2.

SWEEP CLEAR (Als Angels Brooks) / Gifted 5 12 2

CO YORNER SURF (24) (John Nes 5 N Smith G Smith 5 11 2

CRYSTRU JERRE (22) (John Nes 5 N Smith G Smith 5 11 2

CRYSTRU JERRE (22) (Als Israel Palmer) P Hoots 5 10 11

EFFTING: 3-1 Sweep Claim, 7-2 All Donn, 9-2 Cares Rose, 6-1 Crystal Jovel, 10-2 Bold Leap, 12-1 Rtd Garate, River Down, 14-1 Orbit Sweet, Rive Box, Emberge, Purple Ace, 20-1 others, 1998: Spierdid Thyne 4 10 8 J F Tetry 16-1 (R Hoad) 21 ran

CELTIC SEASON (Four No Tournes Partnership) Miss H Kright 5 11 2 __ Mir A Wintle (7)

2-54 RESING DOUBLE (27) (Stylen Periods) 61. Moore 5 13. 10

1973-270 SEPREME GENOTIN (46) NV E Sours J DouB 13. 5

DOG DAUNY (20) (Superiods) Into 2 Farm Buildings (10) F Jorden 5 10. 12

20530 THE RECINALISTER (28) II Poyroon 6 J Brainel 1 Williams 5 10.9

20530 THE RECINALISTER (28) II Poyroon 6 J Brainel 1 Williams 5 10.9

20530 THE RECINALISTER (28) II Poyroon 6 J Brainel 1 Williams 5 10.9

45F-POD TOSHEA TALK (T) Financia (No. Lett. B. Elect. 5. 10 B. DAP-OPS PALLADEAN BOY (25) (Palsadium List Nr. J. Retter. 7. 10 G. D-OO40 1 RECALL (B) i. M.S. 5. A Copiestance P Hymoria 6. 110 D. BOO Mobile COLLOURS (15) G. G. Griffiths I. S. Griffiths 4. 10 O.

1996: Frogmarch 6 11 8) Raition 8-1 (R Philips) 15 ran

1998: Kingstott Pet 7 11 12 0 Styrme 9-2 (M Haynes) 11 ran

1.45 BERKSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,500 added 3m Penalty Value £4,627

P.13F12- SMETH'S BAND (406) (D) (Actual Street | Mrs.) Physics 9 12 0......

1996: Norter's 10 11 10 R Dumood: 2-1 AV Storey, 7 ran

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft on hurdles course in tuck straight)

3.15 Peace Lord

3.50 Supreme Genotin 4.20 River Dawn

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Leonard turns

For England's pack leader, the All Blacks of the late Eighties are the benchmark. Chris Hewett met a genial hard man

into Big Daddy

Jason Leonard's casygoing approach to a mean and often brutal sporting profession leaves you wondering how so generous a spirit could possibly have spent the last seven years serving time with hard labour in his country's front row. England's pack leader seems too charitable by half; it is almost easier to imagine St Francis of Assisi as a member of the Corleone family

Dig a little deeper, though, and you soon uncover the splinter of ice concealed beneath the sunny exterior. No one wins 50odd caps as a prop forward with-out mastering the tricks of the irade, from the unfathomable to the unmentionable, and for all his relaxed geniality, the 28year-old Harlequin is now the Big Daddy of the dressing room, When Jason speaks, the rest listen.

Strangely for a man who lists shamelessly opinionated England predecessors like Jeff Probyn, Brian Moore and John
Olver among his influences. and respected throughout the rugby world. And I said that, not Leonard is not much interested in talking a good game. Words come cheap, after all. Yet Jack Rowell, whose phenomenal success as a club coach at Bath owed an enormous amount to clever psychology as well as tactical intuition, regards

something of a closet orator. It was to Leonard that Rowell turned during the nervous

minutes as the England pack soaked up the early fire and fury and returned it with interest. When the team re-gathered in Marlow on Monday night to prepare for France, they were greeted once again by that chirpy London accent.

Yes. I had a word," said Leonard before one of this week's intensive training sessions at Bisham Abbey. "What

'I wanted this side to be feared and respected throughout the rugby world'

did I rell them? I told them that I wanted this side to be feared just hecause it was the sort of thing international players expect to hear in a team meeting but because I genuinely helieve we have the potential to win that respect, to command that fear.

I've been lucky enough to well as tactical intuition, regards have played in a couple of his most experienced forward as great England sides but this one could be the best of the lot. I'm not one to hrag and I have no patience with idle boasts, but I think we are capable of ap-

was vindicated in the first five the All Blacks under Wayne minutes as the England pack Shelford in the late 1980s. Their rugby was as near perfect as dammit; they had experience and youth, strength and ath-leticism, pure animal instinct mixed with a touch of the cavalier. It was an explosive mix and I sense a hit of it about us.

"So, the point of Monday's little chat was to make sure everyone still appreciated ex-actly where we were trying to get to. You can't achieve perfection, but Shelford showed how close you can get. We've played two Five Nations matches and won hoth by 40 points without playing well. Sooner or later, we'll really click and do someone a lot of damage. Tomorrow would be ideal as far as I'm concerned.

For all his high-flown ambi-tion, the phrase "feet on the ground" might have heen coined for Leonard. A Quin he may be, but there is nothing of the Eton and Cambridge in his background - mention the name Virgil to him and he is more likely to think of Thunderbird II than the Aeneid - and the England dressing-room is a better place for his hrand of earthy realism. In an age of professional craftmanship, the silver spoon counts for less than nothing.

Rather like Jeremy Guscott, a fellow comprehensive school type, Leonard climbed through the ranks on the back of his own raw talent to establish himself as a major player on the world stage. Today, he goes toe to toe with Christian Califano, the



The youngest Englishman to reach 50 caps, Jason Leonard knows that nothing can be taken for granted against France today

soldier from Toulouse, and there are many aficionados of the front row jungle who have the two men level pegging at the very top of the tree. "Good boy, Califano," he says with one of his soft, reflective smiles, "I'm looking forward to seeing him

That carefree line speaks volumes for Leonard's seemingly inexhaustible enthusiasm for life amid the hump and grind. The youngest Englishman to reach a half century of apone match - the 1995 World Cup pool game with Western Samoa, when Rowell fielded a shadow side - since making his debut in Buenos Aires in 1990. When you consider that he suffered a ruptured disc in his neck in 1992 - the worst imaginable injury for a prop - his durabil-

"One of the great joys of he-ing involved at the top level is the fact that you take something with you from every game. No

ity appears more impressive

know, how many times you've been in the situation before, you never go through an interna-tional without learning some sort of lesson.

"When I captained England ainst Argentina in Phil de Glanville's absence just before Christmas, I learned one of the most valuable lessons of all namely, never to assume anvthing about your opposition. We'd looked at the Pumas on video and at no point did we see. the hall move heyond the outside-half, so we went into the

game expecting more of the same. Of course, they caught us on the hop by playing with a result, things began to go

"But what people tend to forget about that game is the re-sult on the old scoreboard at the end. When it came down to brass tacks, we had enough discipline and enough belief to squeeze out a win. As a performance, it was fairly disap-

Leonard believes the feelgood factor amongst the forwards, in particular, will benefit from Rowell's commitment to continuity. "The really strong English packs of recent vintage built up their togetherness over a period of 20 or 30 internationals and I want to see this unit, which I believe possesses world-class potential, given a

Photograph: Peter Jay

similar opportunity," he said. That sort of timescale would give the boy from Barking close

1.00

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Making the Control Trans

Production of the second

A nation places its faith in Benazzi

At a time when the against South Africa with a French nation is struggling to come to terms with Le Pen xenophobia and the recent passing of another town - Vitrolles on the Côte D Azure – into the hands of the National Front, the presence of is heavy with symbolism. Especially among the rugby commuits image of a slightly marginal

group of freethinkers. Abdelatif Benazzi, son of Muslim, and proud of it. Born and raised in Oujda, near Morocco's border with Algeria, he was the unanimous choice to recaptain last year when the Tri-

groin injury.

"Being captain of France, even if it is just an interim, is an enormous thing for me, and 1 feel very honoured to have been given the role," he says. "It is far more than just a per-

a Moroecan as captain of France sonal victory, but it has not really changed me. In Oujda I am not particularly famous, and my nity which has always cherished family, as ever, welcomed the news with modesty plicity. As for his Muslim beliefs,

Zineb and Mohamed, is not they are as discreet as they are only an Arab, but a practising unbending. "I have a faith, and it happens to he Islam. But Islam also teaches one to respect ence." he says. Religion is cenplace Philippe Saint-André as tral to his life and his success as a sportsman. "It gives me imcolores left-winger was forced mense strength. Strength to to pull out of a Test series work to play rugby and to keep

A captain's talent and strength of character have lifted him above prejudice. Ian Borthwick reports

important to me."

Benazzi, despite a relatively late start in the game, has risen to become one of the world's finest forwards, devastating in defence and with the ball in hand. He is one of the few players to have worn all the numbers from 4 to 8 in international rugby, and even today his true role remains undefined within the French XV. Second row, flanker, or No 8 he is as unclassifiable as he is indispensable to the French, and there is still a possibility that he will play half of today's game in the hack row

alongside Olivier Merle. Benazzi first encountered rugby at the Lycée El Ouahda ida, where his PT teacher, Majid Vert, a former secondrower for Morocco. convinced the powerfully huilt teenager to give up track and field, forget the

things in perspective. It is my discus, the shot and decathlon, driving force and, as such, very and take up rugby. Within a year portant to me." he was playing for the Moroc-Gifted with immense inner can Junior XV and the chain of strength and determination, events which led to his arrival in France reads like something out of an Arab equivalent of the

Boys' Own Annual. În 1987, Benazzi, now a full international, was on tour with Morocco in Czechoslovakia where his path crossed that of a touring Third Division French side, Luzech. The power, energy and raw natural talent of the 19-year-old was immediately noticed by club officials who rapidly invited him to come and play in France, and in a matter of months he was playing for the nearby Second and half in the second row Division club, Cahors. His impact was immediate, and after one season at Cahors he transferred to Agen, one of the 17 First Division clubs which attempted to lure him away in the

Overcoming the racism and distrust which first greeted his ar-

rival in this traditional bastion of French rugby became one of Benazzi's first major victories and now, six years later and with 51 international caps to his credit, he has not only risen to the rank of captain of Agen, but also to that of a genuine local hero.

He has nevertheless remained close to his Arab roots: despite the gargantuan aftermatch festivities associated with rugby in south-west France be never drinks alcohol, remains a devout Muslim, and even attempted in the early years strictly to observe Ramadan despite the fact that it mevitably falls in the most rigorous part of the rugby season. "I now know that it is impossible to respect Ramadan and play top-level sport at the same time. So I cheat a little, and for all those days where f cheat I make them up later in the year, observing the fast from dawn to dusk."

His captaincy of the French team remains as discreet and understated as the rest of his personality. Benazzi never raises his voice, but despite the inevitable trace of the North African accent so often ridiculed in France, his size, aura

ficient to ensure respect. As for today's match against England, Benazzi places it a cut above the other games of the champi-onship. "One of the things I will be saying to the younger play-England, is that a game ar Twickenham is something you will remember all your life. We know the English will start as favourites, but in that sense we have nothing to lose. I will sin ply ask the players to give it all they have got, to try everything so that at least we don't come off the field feeling frustrated."

He is conscious, however, of the scrappy nature of France's two early games, and of the disturbing number of handling errors which has prevented them from getting their game going.
"In a match like this anything can
happen," he insists. "We tried a lot of things against Wales, but we also made a lot of mistakes. Our support play was poor, and at times we were just trying too hard, being too hasty to allow things to fall in place. We will be looking to eliminate all those small imperfections from our game. But, above all, we are de-



Irish foil amazing **Scottish recovery**

Scotland produced an incredihle comehack in the A international at Myreside yesterday but still came out second best, eventually losing out 34-33 to their Irish coun-

Down 20-7 at half-time Scotland twice took the lead but in an amazing finish, with the Scots leading 33-27 with just two minutes of normal time remaining, a pass by their standoff, Ally Donaldson, was intercepted by Ireland's winger Niall Woods, who raced over for Michael Lynch's conversion

gave Ireland their one-point win, and meant misery for Scotland who looked the hetter side for most of the game. They were made to pay after their weakness in the tackle gave away soft tries by Ireland's full-hack Ciran Clarke and Woods'

the second half when Gracme Burns' kick was charged down and a lucky bounce allowed the flanker, Eddie Halvey, to score Ireland's third casy try. Ireland's other try was scored

Their troubles continued in

by Niall Hogan from a whirlwind start by his forwards and good driving play by the back

For Scotland, their centre Cameron Murray celehrated his first game with two tries and there were two touchdowns for his fellow centre, Ron Eriksson. dropped from the national side.

despite scoring against England at Twickenham a month

Scotland's other try came from John Kerr with Donaldson converting four of their tries but the Currie stand-off missed a long-range penalty that could have won the game.

The earlier Under-21 in-ternational between the countries was a much more clear-cut affair with Ireland winning 31-The Scots were outplayed up

front by an Ireland pack that

scrummaged powerfully, worked well in the line-out and in open play showed exem-plary handling skills. lreland's backs were also a cut above their Scottish counterparts, their swift handling, quick running and ease on

Ireland led 11-0 at half-time thanks to two penalties by Ronan O'Gara and a try by Gervin Dempsey and against the stiff hreeze in the second half they adapted well by using their strong forwards in close formation to gain territorial ad-

the ball.

Sheldon Coulter scored three minutes into the second half and Scotland's misery was compounded when Ireland scored two pushover tries, the first attributed to O'Gara and the second to their scrum-half Stephen Bell.

of fruitful family trees which have Right on full-time Emmet produced three of the 21 players Farrell, on as a substitute. emon duty for Ireland today.

ters of the way to a Grand Slam twelve months ago has sim-Alan Tait's last appearance for Scotland happens to date hack to the day which ended with ply underscored the bottom. Dean Richards and John Jeffrey line that Richie Dixon, the naheing held accountable for the tional team coach, has a dearth Calcutta Cup being used as a football on Princes Street. Nine of world-class talent at his disposal. That stark reality was exposed by Australia and Italy before Christmas and exploited years later, the prodigal Tait returns after his rugby league exile with Scotland's hattered by Wales, with their three-try scoring burst in five second-half pride in need of urgent repair.

> uary, and by England at Twick-enham four weeks ago. At least Tait's return to the union fold, with Newcastle, has

minntes at Murrayfield in Jan-

Scotland's fitful form since other midfield option. Jeffrey's Alan, but he has been out of rugby union for longer than his conversion left them three-quargested with his influential per- Welsh counterparts." formance in Scotland As 56-11 submerging of an "Emerging have much to offer in his centre pairing with Gregor Townsend, even as a 32-year-old who made his original international debut as a replacement for John Rutherford in the World Cup match against France in Christchurch ten years ago.

Much has been made this week of Tait's second coming. Much too much, in fact. As the captain, Wainwright, put it yesterday: "Some people seem to

Wainwright, who moves to his favoured blind-side position in Scotland's back row this afternoon; might have added that more than one re-converted Welshman breathed new life into the old dragon at Murrayfield six weeks ago. The great Scotts, Quinnell and Gibbs, and Allan Bateman, were also in the Welsh team which subsequently had its tail put between its legs by the Irish. Fortunately for Scotland, the false dawn syndrome was transmitted to the

victors in Cardiff that day. Brian Ashton arrived in Edinburgh on Thursday with his six-year contract but with a team in latters. Considering that Eric Miller, Eric Elwood and Nick Popplewell have since the Arms Park game, heen added to a casualty list which already included Simon Geoghe gan and Keith Wood, the former Bath coach could be said to have

swapped the Rec for the wrecks. The wound of most immediate concern to Ashton, though, is the one that was inflicted by the 17 men who played for the land of his fathers at Lansdowne Road a fortnight ago. The dam-age done by the five tries conceded in that final 16-minute slaughter could have painful implications if Scotland make an early breakthrough this after-



and hurning black eyes are suf-Return of the prodigal may not . stop Scots' slide into ignominy

SIMON TURNBULL

Last season, and the season

before, Scotland went into their final Five Nations fixture with

Grand Slam glory within their grasp. Defeat against Ireland at Murrayfield today would leave

Roh Wainwright and his col-leagues with one hand on the

wooden spoon and, given the

Paris match awaiting them in a

fortnight, the prospect of sliding ignominiously into the history hooks as the first

whitewashed Scotland team

It was the same season, in fact,

that the Irish celebrated their

most recent success at Murray-

field. an 18-15 victory which fea-tured two Trevor Ringland tries. If that proves to be an unhappy

coincidence for the Scots, their

selectors, Jeffrey among them, could be excused for not know-

ing where to turn next - except,

perhaps, for examining the kind

since 1985.

be expecting miracles from SCOTLAND VIRELAND SE

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sport

RFU urged not to let TV undermine tradition

English rugby yesterday re-ceived a warning from an un-likely quarter that it had to tread carefully when allowing its game to be televised to a lim-

While the Celtic nations this week signed lucrative broadcasting deals with terrestrial television companies, England have committed themselves to a five-year contract with BSkyB.

The warning about the dan-gers of deals with satellite or cable television companies came from a leading representative of a sport which pioneered razza sport which proheered razzmatazz, hype and schedules tailored to suit television Farr-lones: Fears burn-out
companies - American foot-

Gridiron has seen it all, done it all, marketed the videos and the whole range of leisurewear and now, by all accounts, is ready



Conference Centre in London yesterday at a seminar on the future of rugby, organised by Rugby News magazine in asso-ciation with the Independent.

where, once again, the Rugby Football Union's authority and constitution will be challenged. Yesterday's conference, which fcatured a series of eminent speakers, was, therefore, a welcome forum for views to be expressed and potential problems to be highlighted. And the National Football League has had its problems.

Dan Rooney is well qualified speak authoritatively on runing a professional game. Since graduating from college as a business major, he has worked in the family firm, the Pittsburgh Steelers gridiron team. He has seen at first hand the issues raised by professionalism and, while concluding that it was no bad thing, he still made some pertinent points.

"Television has brought sport into everyone's living-room," to trumpet the pitfalls, problems and growing pains of professionalism to rugby union. And there were plenty of willing ears in the Queen Elizabeth II is scheduled for next Sunday

Canon will the Independent.

A turbulent season off the field in the English game faces further storms. A third special have a marvellous tradition and I think we owe your game a debt of gratitude since I believe

David Liewellyn hears a wide variety of figures give their views at vesterday's seminar on the future of rugby union

rughy is the root of gridiron.
In the 1930s, Pittsburgh Steelers had to pay a local radio station to cover their matches. In the 1960s, by which time television was involved, broadcasting revenue to the NFL was \$300,000 with spectating fig-ures for the whole season in all

matches at around one million. "By the 1997 season, revenue from television had gone up to \$39m with attendances around 23 million. These days television is re-

sponsible for the greatest slice of revenue, some two-thirds of the NFL's income is TV-generated. Gate money is less than onethird, while stadium revenue through concessions, franchises and marketing, is increasing. While accepting the value of

television as a source of income and acknowledging that satellite TV is able to reach places around the world where gridiron had never before been seen. Rooney pointed out that satellite dishes were still not that

local [i.e. terrestrial] networks. Games must remain on local television. When a Steelers match is heing shown on cable, it is broadcast simultaneously by a terrestrial station. TV fans are not

always prepared to pay to view."

Rooney felt that television and gold splashed on white."

wanted to promote sport. "TV is not the enemy," he suid.

"But they have to make pro
But they have to make programming good. It is an excel-

package that is negotiated must leave control with the governing body. The sport must be responsible, for example, for the timing of the game and for the number of interruptions for commercial breaks. Rooney advocated that the

leading clubs and governing bodies should negotiate together for the benefit of the brotherhood. That theme of esprit de corps was echoed by another distinguished speaker. the former Australian captain He added: "Don't isolate your Nick Farr-Jones, who lamented. among other things in the new professional era, the passing of the traditional Australian green and gold strip. Farr-Jones, now based in France and working in banking, described the new

out in the modern player. "I unlent medium for creating new derstand that the need to play spectators. But the television more games to generate more



Callard: 'Long-term plans'

now around 12 to 14 internationals a year for Australia. "And look at training. We did

three nights a week and perhaps October, four to five months before the start of the new season.

And these guys are expected to train 10 times a week. I be lieve this is overkill. While stating that the modern-day game is in good shape. Farr-Jones expressed his fear for what happens when a player retires, particularly if the player's only qualification is playing rugby. This was a theme choed by the former England

income," he said. "But there are

a little extra on our own. My state. New South Wales, brought its players together in nal its achievements and stance in the game, particularly in a time when there is so much mis-

full-back ion Callard who called for youngsters to be encouraged to stay on at school and then to train for another profession while in full time employment with professional rugby clubs. The conference was wel-comed by Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary. I think this should become an annual affair." he said. "It gives a lot of sections of the game an ideal opportunity to express and share their views. It is also a good chance for the RFU to sig-

Cowboy

Godignon

finds his

range

John Whitaker's finely judged round on Virtual Village Wel-

ham looked good enough to win the Prix des Ecoliers, yesterday's opening contest of the Paris Horse Show, until Herve

Godignon came in last to the 21-

horse jump-off and cut 1.36sec

There could not have been

more of a contrast between the

rounds. Whitaker, though he cut

corners to the bone, maintained

a wonderfully smooth rhythm on his 17-year-old Olympic partner, Godignon's round on Amoros

Revillon looked like a cowboy

display in comparison, but it provided a home victory for France.

"He is rideable now but still

a bit difficult." Godignon said of

Amoros, "I had to go fast, there

was no choice because he gets worse if you hold him back."

Godignon wondered, with a

wry grin, whether this was a

good preparation for the Grand

to contest tonight. Welham, on

the other hand, seemed to be

given an excellent preparation

for the Volvo World Cup quali-

fier in which he will compete to-

without going crazy," Whitaker

that aim. Apart from one small

midweck contest at Markham

in Leicestershire, this was Wel-

ham's first contest since

Olympia in December but there

were certainly no signs of him

being ring rusty.
Michael Whitaker was the

only other Briton to reach yes-

terday's jump-off, but his

chance quickly evaporated when Virtual Village Ashley ran

out after a short turn to the sec-

ond fence. Having circled back

to jump it, he had the same fence down and thereafter concentrated on giving the nine-

"I hoped I could win today

morrow after a day's rest.

off the Briton's time.

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY

The return of a fallen hero

Glyn Leach on the rapid rise and slow decline of Sugar Ray Leonard, who makes yet another comeback tonight.

ike a moth drawn to a flame, Sugar Ray Leo-mard, now a 40-year-old grandfather, tonight returns to the ring in Atlantic City after a six-year absence. The modernday boxing legend aims to turn back the clock through victory over the flamboyant Hector "Macho" Camacho, the defender of the lightly regarded In-ternational Boxing Council middleweight championship.

Leonard's love-bate relationship with the sport is well known. A professional career following a gold medal at the Montreal Olympics of 1976 has seen Leonard fight just 39 times (including two losses and one draw) in 20 years, statistics put into perspective by those of 80s contemporaries Thomas Hearns (62 fights), Marvin Hagler (67

(112 fights). Of the quartet whose memorable rivalry sustained the sport throughout a deessing mid-80s slump, only Haglet has walked into the sunset never to look back. Hearns and Duran have kept plugging away. diminishing

their reputations by the fight. Leonard, though, has retired six times to date, always to return: the first retirement following his Olympic success: the latest after Terry Norris brutally battered him for 12 rounds in February 1991, prompting one American jourpalist to describe the beaten Leonard as "staggering from the

Madison Square Garden ring

A detached retina, a period

Cricket

NEIL MANTHORP

reports from Johannesburg

South Africa 302 v Australia

South Africa's late-order bats-

men clawed their side out of se-

rious trouble to reach 302 all out

on a fascinating first day of the

first Test against Australia at

ardson made an unbeaten 72 as

he masterminded the addition

of 107 runs for the last two wick-

ets, building on a defiant innings

of 70 from his captain, Hansie

Cronje, after the home side

The chief Australian de-

stroyer had been Glenn Mc-

Grath, who lived up to his

statistical ranking as the No 1

had slumped to 115 for 5.

The wicketkeeper Dave Rich-

The Wanderers yesterday.

challenge, all have caused always he has found justification to return. But why now, at an age where he feels it prudent to undergo yearly prostate examina-tions, does Leonard feel driven to risk his health and reputation

once more? Not through financial necessity. Leonard hardly needs the \$5m (£3.2m) he receives for challenging Camacho, who

The Sugar Ray story

July 1976 Wire light welterweight gold medel at Montreel Charpies. February 1977 Tans on mber 1979 Was test world title against

May 1984 Returns with win over Hown Howard

February 1991 Florest berg and beater by larry North and announces retirement. 1. March 1997 Aged 40, returns to light florest Comments.

earns \$2m. Leonard and his attorney. Mike Trainer, have maintained total financial independence from day one. The investors who paid \$1,000 apiece to get Leonard's career up and running were repaid from the proceeds of his first professional fight and summarily dis-

astating new-ball burst of three

wickets for 10 runs in the first

morning conditions to dismiss

Andrew Hudson (0), Gary Kirsten (9) and Jacques Kallis (6) and then came back after

lunch to get rid of Daryll Cul-linan for 27. McGrath finished

with 4 for 77 from 26 high-class

as South Africa rallied from 25

for 3 but, despite scoring 124

runs in the afternoon session.

the home side paid the price for

Jonty Rhodes made 22 before

becoming Jason Gillespie's first

victim and the all-rounder

On his return to the Test team

some loose shots.

Cullinan did his best to rebuild the innings in a fourth-wicket stand of 53 with Cronje

McGrath exploited overcast

of cocaine abuse, the lack of missed. Leonard and Trainer went their own way, forgoing promotional alignments and fighting for the highest bidder, earning over \$100m to date. Neither is this comeback

through lack of achievement. He was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame five years ago. Leonard has won six world titles in five weight divisions, a record beaten only by Hearns.

It is the search for approval, or adulation, that brings Leonard back and boxing has, since his teenage years, provided both. As a frail, timid youth in Palmer Park. Maryland, whose only sporting aspiration was to be a gymnast, Leonard was something of an embarrassment to his father, Cicero. But when the youngest of the Leonard brothers took up boxing and function disappeared from

May 1984 Returns with we over from hower the retires a second thre.

National 1988 Beets Doing Launds to win super middleweight and light heavy weight titles in one fight.

A career in television commentary, a spell as "boxing April 1982 Finds these year entenant to best Merch Height for WBC middleweight title.

Nation 1989 Floored twice in controllerial draw soile duty being to play a few the father-son relationship. sole duty being to play a few hor 1989 Beets Quant in third tight of rounds of golf with the establishment's high-roller customers - and the launching of a foundation for underprivileged children, none replaced the adrenalin rush of

the boxing ring. "Fighters are a rare breed. We don't ever think we slow down," Leonard said. "I guarantee if you polled 12 fighters and asked if they could beat Roy Jones Jur, they'd say yes. Because, if you don't believe you can, you al-ready lost. And, yes, I believe I

fours in 35 from 42 balls before

holing out against the left-arm

wrist spin of Michael Bevan.

Bevan snared Lance Klusen-

er for nine shortly after tea and

the crucial wicket of Cronje fell

to Shane Warne, with the help

of a brilliant catch at short ex-

smash, but picked out the un-erring hands of Waugh who

clung on to the ball as he fell

backwards, ending Cronje's

144-ball stay which included 10

At 195 for 8, the initiative

was clearly with the Australians, but Richardson in-

spired a brilliant rally as he

raced to 72 from just 87 balls

with 10 fours and a six. He

added 58 with Allan Donald

(21) and 49 with Pani Adams

fours and a six.

Cronje middled a flat-batted

tra cover by Mark Waugh.



A legend reflects: Sugar Ray Lennard in some hot gym action this week

could knock out Roy Jones Jar.

"When I hit my 40th birthday, realised it was now or never. I've done a lot of self-evaluating and, with each day, each year, I realised my chances of restarting my career were get-

ting slimmer and slimmer. On perhaps damaging his reputation by taking one fight too many, a philosophical Leonard said: "If one fight tarnishes my career, then my career was never worth much anyway.

(15) before the latter was

trapped leg before by Warne off

the fourth ball of the day's fi

nal over. Warne finished a

fluctuating day with figures of

2 for 68 from 27.4 overs.

A TOT 68 From 27.4 over
First day, South Africa won that
SOUTH AFRICA - First thinkings
A C Hudson c Healy b McGrath
G Winson c Healy b McGrath
I J Culturan c Healy b McGrath
I J Culturan c Healy b McGrath
I J Culturan c Healy b McGrath
I J R Rhodes c Healy b Gressie
J N Rhodes c Healy b Gressie
J N Rhodes c Healy b Gressie
A J D Rudsurdson not out
A A Donasd c Healy b Gressie
F R Assens how Warte
Sotias (0.1 of var no.37
Total (9.1.4 overa)
Featt 1.0 2.15 3.25 3.78 5.17

Bowling: McGrati 26-8-77-4 (nb.); Gress 17-6-66-2 (w2); Warns 27.4-9-68-2 (nb.) Bevan 17-1-64-2 (w1); Blowen 4-0-23-0

ALISTRALIA: "M A Toylor, M I Hayden, M T G Ellen, M E Waugh, G S Blower, S R Waugh, M G Bevan, 11 A Healy, S k Warne, J N Grie-spe, G D McGrath.

Umplies: C J Minchley (SA) and S Ventara-ragionan (and)

For all Leonard's triumphsstopping the frighteningly pow-erful Hearns in their first light, forcing the animalistic Duran to quit in their second, bedazzling iron man Hagler and sending him into retirement - recent memories are of the faded fighter of Leonard's last two contests: the one who sustained 60 stitches to facial wounds in the third fight with Duran; and the man

public has done nothing to dispel those images.

Camacho, 34, is a multiweight champion himself. but lack of self-discipline has dogged the career of the Puerto Ricanborn native of Spanish Harlem

in New York. The former Rikers Island inmate has a history of drugs and firearms offences but is a highly skilled fighter with fast hands, good mobility and a reputation for durability, never having been stopped in 66 fights, including three losses and one draw. And, most importantly, Camacho has fought 27 times during Leonard's most recent spell of inactivity, a factor that makes this an even-money fight with Las Vegas oddsmakers.

"It's all on me, I know that," Leonard said. "It's basically what I do, what I have left - 5th per cent beats Camacho, 75 per cent beats him comfortably, and

100 per cent ... annihilation." Convention Centre waits to watch Leonard play the per-

The crowd at the Atlantic City centage game.

Hounslow seeking safety

BILL COLWILL

who this season have been tottering in the relegation zone. need three points inmorrow against Havant to be virtually certain of maintaining their status. For their 150th league game, their Welsh international Mike Williamson, who has played in 136 matches, and England's Guy Fordham return after injury. SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

That relegation hattle will he preceded at Hounslow's Dukes Meadow ground with a came between the leaders Ted-Hounslow, arguably the most dington and third-placed Readsuccessful National League club, ing. Teddington welcome back Great Britain's Olympic captain, Jason Laslett, from huliday but

Around the resorts

have doubts about their striker Jon Hauck who has a leg injury. Reading will be missing schoolboy international Jon Loose. Should Teddington slip up second-placed Cannock will be looking to regain the number one spot with a win at Surbiton. he had down," he said.

year-old a quiet school round the remainder of the track. The Prix des Ecoliers takes its name from the audience of noisy schoolchildren, who file into Bercy's Palais Omnisports each year to watch the opening contest of the show. The roaring and stamping is an a new experience for some of the younger horses - among them Virtual Village Niko, who, ac-cording to his rider. Geoff Billington, had his eyes out on stalks. "It's all part of the learning curve, I thought he jumped well apart from the two fences

Unity is strength for game's underlings

Richardson leads bold recovery

bowler in the world with a dev- Shaun Pollock smashed eight

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

There is life outside Super League, as the First and Second Division clubs have the chance to show when they start their league scason, two weeks ahead of the hig boys, this weekend.

The smaller clubs had a choice when Super League arrived to hog the limelight. They e could crawl away into a dark corner and die, or they could sort themselves out. They have chosen the latter course.

flight are getting their act to- £1.6m." McDermott says. "That

gether, on and off the field. True, there are still a number of financial basket cases, but there is a collective desire to survive

and thrive. Bob McDermott, who combines the role of chairman of the new Association of First and Second Division Clubs with that of chairman of Dewsbury, has been at the heart of this change of mood. Under his leadership, the clubs have discovered that

there is strength in unity. "First and Second Division clubs were told last season that their allocation of the Murdoch The clubs outside the top money was to be reduced by

would have been crippling for many clubs, but they could do title as individuals. But when the Association got involved, that £1.6m was back on the table

within 72 hours." Or, as the Huddersfield director Bob Scott puts it: "The only time we'll be at loggerheads will be for 80 minutes on the field. For the rest of the time we're allies, pooling our ideas." There are certainly more

sides who could conceivably win the First Division than there are in Super League. Hull, at home to Swinton tomorrow, have recruited well name - the Sharks - ignores the more obvious attractions of the Hull Herrings or Haddocks. Huddersfield, who start their

season against Whitehaven, have the facilities and the resources, while Keighley - away to Workington - continue to defy predictions that their bubble has burst. Featherstone take on Hull KR with what looks like one of the strongest squads in the division, but Wakefield - at home to Dewsbury - are possible dark norses.

The First Division clubs and the top nine in Division Two arc to contest a new play-off comfrom Australia, even if their new petition in late July.

Kingston and Telford pay the penalty

who through grim resistance alone lasted the distance against Norris after twice being floored.

Leonard's refusal to spar in

ice hockey

Mark Pallister, a cousin of the Manchester United and England central defender Gary. has been banned and fined for his part in a mass punch-up which halted a SuperLeague match after 13 minutes last weekend. He was suspended for five games and fined £150 for fighting as the British Ice Hockey Association dealt with the culprits from both Kingston Hawks and Telford Tigers.

The police were called to the rink in Hull last Saturday to quell the violence. The biggest punishment went to the Kings ion coach, Keith Millhench. who was suspended for 10 games, fined £100 and given a final warning. The Telford coach, Dave Graham, was suspended for two games, fined £100 and warned for his failure

to control his players. The Kingston player Norman Pinnington was banned for 10 games and fined £200 after he became involved in fighting during the pre-game warm-up and 21 seconds into the match, which was abandoned with the scores level at 2-2 Kingston's Bobby McEwan was suspended for six games and fined £75 after he headbutted an opponent, his team-mate Joe Watkins was suspended for three games and fined £50 after he used his

blocker during the brawl. The BIHA has ordered the game to be replayed and bus fined the clubs a total of £1,7(10.

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Blackburn Rovers' mid-season revival owes much to the faithful servant who knows that his 26 years at Ewood Park may soon come to an end. Guy Hodgson talked to the man who may be the most successful caretaker manager ever-

Parkes unworried by uncertain future

look under the heading Black-burn Rovers in the Rothmans Football Yearbooks for the seasons 1991-92 and '92-93 is interesting. In the first Tony Parkes is listed as assistant manager, in the second his name appears nowhere. Kenny Dalglish, Ray Harford, Asa Hartford, the list goes on. Parkes seemingly entering into a twilight world populate: by tootball's furgotten many.

In reality. Parkes had not disappeared and was ahead of Harford in the blue-and-white hierarchy – even if you would not know it from the black-and-white print. The message, nevertheless, is loud and unyielding; the permanence of a job in football is like the proverbial verbal contract, not worth the paper it is written on.

A new manager's broom frequently sweeps away penple who deserve better, as Tony Book discovered at Manchester City. Parkes has been at Blackburn for 26 years but there is no guarantee he will make it to a 27th even if he could claim, with justification, to be the most successful caretaker manager ever. When Roy Hodgson arrives from Internazionale in the summer, it might signal his leaving.

Yet meet Parkes now and he exudes the same outward nonchalance about his future that has marked his relaxed spell in charge of Blackburn since Ray Harford resigned last October, "Come into the caretaker manager's nffice," be says, knowing no room of that name exists. As he walked past the door he pointed to the place where the pre-fix should go ahead of the word manager".

He said, until his face matched the blue of his club's shirts, that he did not want the joh on a permanent basis and now, with Hodgson due from Italy, his wish has been granted. It could be an abdication of responsibility or an acute perception of his limitations, but where Parkes goes now is anyone's guess. Certainly it is not within his compass.

I'm sure the club, the board, the chairman and the owner would want me to stay," he said, "They've actually told me that. But my answer is: "It isn't up to you, it's up to the new manager'. You can't expect a man to come into a club and work with one hand hehind his hack which he might feel he's doing if I'm here. It's the manager's decision and if he says I've got to go, it's acceptable. That's part of foothall.

"People ask mc: 'Where's that going to leave you," and I can't honestly tell them. If I worried about what's going to happen to me every time I've had a caretaker's joh I wouldn't go to sleep at night."

Parkes, who was an industrious, "sort you'd want with you in the trenches" type of midfield player for Blackburn, has been in temporary charge at Ewood Park on three occasions. After Bobby Saxton, Don Mackay and Harford he has done the tidving up for a new manager, always surrendering authority with the club in better shape than he found it. In 1987 he was unbeaten, four

years later, after Mackay was sacked.



The Parkes bench: 'We'd had the doom and gloom bit and it hadn't got the results,' says Blackburn's caretaker manager

he got 17 out of 24 points and presented the side in eighth position to Kenny Dalglish, who guided them to promotion via the play-offs that same season. This time he has lost three League matches out of 15 and fears about relegation have diminished, if not entirely disappeared. to find the time. Perhaps we'll get together in an international week."

Hodgson will benefit from this stewardship just as Dalglish did in the past and Parkes, who comes over as the last person to grumble, will be a welcoming figure - even more so since the original choice. Sven Goran his decision to come to Blackburn in-

stead deciding to remain in Italy.
"I'm very happy," Parkes said.
"Everybody is looking forward to his coming. He's a hig name in world football and Blackburn need someone of that stature to get us hack to where we were two years ago. One or two of the players sank a bit when it was clear Eriksson was not coming, so the news about Hodgson

so quickly afterwards lifted them.
"I've never spoken to Roy but I expect I'll be flying over to Milan short-ly to meet him. It's similar sort of situation to Eriksson, where I went to Genoa. He's got a team to run and pick and so have I, so it's not that easy

By then Parkes' principal aim, 14 points to reach his estimate of safety, might have been accrued, which will be no meagre resurrection after Blackburn managed only four draws Eriksson, left the club close to and no wins in their first 11 Pre-Parkes' heart in limbo by reversing miership matches and seemed destined for relegation only two seasons after winning the championship. It would not be a total exaggeration to note it as a triumph for humour over adversity.

"I just got the magic wand out and waved it about a bit," is his response to questions about the change he brought. As soon as Parkes walked into the manager's office, the lightness of touch was obvious in com-

parison to the heavy downbeat of keep pressure off people by trying to harford's final days. When he is behumorous, all the better. People ing serious, he says being temporary helped - and that be had no ambi-

tion to succeed to the job.
"Managers are dour and miserable," be said after one win. "I want to stay a happy go-lucky chap. Wait until Mr Souness comes, be's a prop-er manager." On cue, the Southampton boss arrived, the pain slipping out from under the mask of smiles a testimony to Parkes'

"I set off to try to be a little hit jovial and laid-back," Parkes said. We'd had the doom and gloom hit and it hadn't got the results, so let's try and attack it a little hit differently. More jovial, more unconcerned, I did it consciously in the hope it would rub off on other people.

"I'm serious at the right time, don't get me wrong. Not everything is a laugh and a joke but, if you're happy in your job, you do it better, it's

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

are under enough pressure. "I brought in a couple of players who hadn't been in the side and tinkered with the formation a little hit, but there was no magic formula. Beating Liverpool 3-0 in our first home game after Ray's departure was the turning point. Football, like any ball game, is about confidence any ball game, is about confidence will never be in permanent charge of and, as the points came in, we got the wheel at Ewood Park "I wouldn't better."

Per Pedersen, a Danish striker, has been bought from Odense for £2.5m to buttress that self-belief, a signing made without reference to anyone in Italy and which reinforces the faith that the club have in Parkes' judgement. It also underlines the heady distance Blackburn have travelled since his first stint as a caretaker. Then he also bought a player, Sean Curry, but he cost £5,000.

"That's the difference between then and now," he said. "From day a psychological fact. And if you can one when Kenny and Ray came,

Tony Parkes: The caretaker extraordinalre

sery 1967: Don Mackey appointed new at Blackburn, new 18th of 22 and out relegation zone, land not lost in the

2 Sept - 12 Oct 1991 2 Sept 1991: Blackburn, 21st of 22 in the Second Bhiston, with one point from three

.1 - Port Vale . Riarkbum nouth, Kelelij Delgish's appoint-rage is confirmed. Blackburn are

25 Oct 1996 - 7

25 October 1996: Blackburn, 20th of 20 in the Premier League, with four points from 1.1.

things just happened so quickly. We Pleyed 17 Won 7 Do went from being a sleeping, average FA Calling Premierally Second Division club to an all-action West Herr 2 Black Premiership club. We were buying Hackburn players every day, whoever was for sale was coming to Blackburn. The car park changed almost overnight. We bad BMWs and Mercs. The

Which is why Parkes is adamant he say I'll never be a manager, but I FA Cup third round wouldn't want to be manager of Backburn

Blackburn Rovers. Possibly six years ago, before we were promoted to the Premiership, that might have been my time. But now, it's a big, big business, incheman 2 Blackburn But now, it's a big, big business, incheman 2 Blackburn West Plant you need someone in charge who can FA Cup fourth format.

will that business have space for a one-cinb, low profile man, no matter how good a servant? The forture for me is 10 weeks," he replied in the league, having taken 24 points from a "What happens from there is too distant. Until I speak to Roy Hodgson, I'm no wiser."

No 207 Scarborough Stephen Walsh

Is there life after Scarborough? Hardly, to judge by state of the old-timers who walk their Zimmer frames on the Esplanade every afternoon. For Scarborough, as Pete Davies pointed out in a piece in FourFourTwo a year or so ago, is a place where people come to die, hut then forget why they came.

A year ago, pretty much the same could have been said of the football side - after a lifetime of non-League mil. At the end of last season, only Torquay - and the fact that Stevenage did not have a decent ground - lay between them and a return to the Conference. It was not just the lowly po-

sition that mattered, it was the manner of it. As belits a seaside club, we were shipping goals by the crateload. The caretakermanager, Mitch Cook, was a worthy trier, hut everything he touched turned to dross. The high point of his reign came when, one Friday evening, he took his squad out for a drink in Plymouth. His stated aim of relaxing his too-tense players was achieved the following afternoon: Argyle won 5-1.

I took in the last game of last season with my son – he had a free ticker from the Football in the Community scheme. I prepared him for a certain amount of late-season carnival; but fullscale clowning I had not forecasi. The Seasiders conceded four to the clarer-and-blue clodhoppers of Scunihorpe, and my son (not a bad wii, for an eight-year-old (asked the gateman for his money huck.

Dire straits, then - and all this just a decade since Neil Warnock brought the club into the League on a tide of euphoria. Scarborough were a potent semi-pro side, a Woking of

their time, and older fans still live off the glory of the non-League days. There were three Wemhley trips in the 70s for FA Trophy wins over Wigan, Stafford and Dagenbarn. Those old enough to remember tend to regret the transformation from hig fish in a small box to tiddler in danger of being thrown off the quayside. Of course, seaside towns in

decline make good copy. The papers loved it when Bulgaria. billeted in town during Euro 96. walked out; cue for much metropolitan sniggering and a visit from Nick Hancock, who sa on the sand in a deckehair with a hanky on his bead. Despite all this, the football

club seems to have acquired a bit of huoyancy under the new manager, the former Carlisle United director of coaching Mick Wadsworth. He immed ately impressed by seeming to know a fiasco when he saw one he released half the squad and made a few wise huys, including the nld Sunderland stopper Gary Bennett.

Scarborough are now trying tn play a heautiful game, and they deserve some plaudits; it takes courage to play it on the deck tno pun intended) in the Crowds are up and, with a mid-season dip apparently be-hind us, the possibility of a playoff place is looming large in our consciousness. Even as profound a sceptic as my son has agreed to return, and he's seen high-flying Wigan and eight-man Darlington well beaten on our home patch. And before you ask - yes, it really is called the McCain Stadium, but for once we seem to have something more solid than oven chips to build our future on.

TODAY 6 Newcastle v Southampton 7 Sheffield Wind v Middleshmush **FA Carling Premiership** P W D L F A 27 15 9 3 53 30 27 15 8 4 46 20 First Division 25 11 9 5 39 31

Blackburn Rovers v Sunderland

des: Blackburn WDLWD, Sunderland WDDLL.
McKinlay starts a two-match suspension which could mean a recall for Bohinen in Blackburn's midfield. Danish striker Pedersen could make his debut. Kubicki is set to return to the Sunderland defence after ruled out for the rest of the season

Derby County v Chelsea

ful. For Chelsea, Petrescu is out so Johnsen may deputes. Goalkeeper Hirchcock is still not fit after a shoulder mury therefore the Norwegian, Grodas, has a further chance to establish himself.

Everton v Arsenal

Last season: 0-2, Last five League matches: Ever-

corned the Arsenal casualty list out Platt is expected to return after a langitry lay-off. Merson has strained an abdominal muscle while Bould has a rib

Last season: 2-0. Last five League matches: Leeds WDDLW. West Ham LLLW. Kelly starts a two-match ban for Leeds while Dongo is doubtful with a breake hamsting. Jackson is available aram after missing one care through its

but Hartson is now banned, so Dowie is likely to parmer Kitson up front.

Manchester United v Coventry City Last season: 1-0. Last five League matches: Man-

chester Utd WWWD, Coventry LWDLD.

Keane has his ankle in a plaster cast but United manager Ferguson in-

sists this is a precautionary measure and remains optimistic his mitiential midfielder can still play. May is a fit after a hemia operation. Coventry

defender Breen returns, having being cup-tied in midweek.

Leeds United v West Ham United

Jackson is available again after missing one game through ill Hammers' defender Bilic returns from a two-match suspension

Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Derby OLWDL, Chelsea WLWWD.

elcome back McGrath after his midweek rest but Stimac is doubt-

I. Blackburn v Sunderland

5 Manchester Utd v Coventry

4 Leeds v West Ham.

8 Tottenham v Nottingham Forest...... Nationwide Football League 10 Bradford City v Manchester City. 11 Gransby v Blannenam 13 Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace 14 Port Vale v Reading 15 Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd 17 Southend v Barnsley 18 Swindon v Charlton ... Second Division ttm Forest _26 5 9 12 23 40 24 uthampton _25 5 6 14 34 44 21 iddestrough 25 5 7 13 30 45 19

20 Bournemouth v Shrewsbury 21 Bostol Rovers v Waiseb. 23 Millwall v Wycombe 24 Notis County v Brentford 25 Peterborough v Chesterfield 26 Plymouth v Blackpool . 27 Preston v Bury ...

28 Stockport v Rotherhert 47 Morton v Stirling Albion 29 Watford v Bristol City 48 Partick v Aktirle ... 30 Wresham v Burnley Third Division 32 Carksie v Lincoln 33 Darlington v Brighton ... 34 Fulham v Chester ... 35 Hardeoool v Sourthorpe

36 Hereford v Easter .. 37 Hull v Northampton 38 Leyton Orient v Barnet - Rochdale v Torousy

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 40 Aberdeen v Rangers 41 Ceinc v Hearts . 42 Dundee United v Dunkermline 43 Hibernian v Motherwell

46 Felkirk v St. Merren.

TEAM SHEET

49 St Jöhnstone v Chideban Second Division - Ayr v Berwick ... Clyde v Queen of the South Dumberton v Brechln - Livingston v Hestilton - Stenbousemuic v Stram Third Division - Arbroath v East Stirling

Queen's Park v Forfer **TOMORROW** FA Carling Premieratio Aston Villa v Liverpool (4.0) . Nationwide Football Loague

Montross v Ross County .

Inverness Caledonian Thistis y Afine

First Division Bolton v West Bromwich (2.10) Third Division Swanses City & Cardiff City |12.0)

Newcastie Utd v Southampton Ferdinand needed 10 stitches in a head wound during last week's who at Middlesbrough but is fit and, in Shearer's absence, will play up front with either Beardsley or Asprilla. Beresford (hamstring) has been ruled our. For the Saints, Monkou has recovered from a call injury.

Sheffield Wed v Middlesbrough Last season: 0-1. Last five League matches: Sheffield Wednesday UWDOW, Middlesbrough LUWDL.
Stefanovic loses his piece to Walker in Wednesday's defence. Hirst an Hyde may both start. Juninho returns for Middlesbrough after playing 45 mirrutes for Brazil against Poland on Wednesday. Central defenders Vick

Last season: 0-1. Last five League matches: Nottenham LWLDL. Nottingham Forest WWLD.

Sheringham is ruled out again so Spurs may call up Fox, linked with a
Sam move to Forest. Crossley is suspended so Forest have recalled Nothem Ireland goalkeeper Wright from his loan spell at Manchester City, while
Bart-Williams is out with a knee Injury.

Wimbledon v Leicester City Last season: Old not play. Last five League matches: Wimbledon LLDWD. Leicester LWDLW. es: Wimbledon LLDWD. Leicesser LWDLW.

Jones, whose goal beet Arsenal last week, and Leonhardsen are both missing from the Dons' midfield. Winger Guppy makes his Premiership debut
for Leicester efter completing his £850,000 move from Port Vale. Keller
is on World Cup dury with the United States so Poole returns in goal.

Tomorrow: Aston Villa v Liverpool Last season: 0-2. Last five League matches: Aston Villa LLWWD, Liverpool DWWWD. Villa will be without Staunton (ankle) while transfer listed Tiler may be given a chance to impress if Scineca fells to recover from tonsilluis. Liverpool wait on a fitness test on Babb — the Republic of treland defender is

Waddle may have stage to himself

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Cortinas had to go."

bring the players in."

Footballing connoisseurs anticmost skilful players could be disappointed at Maine Road today. While the visitors, Bradford
City, expect Chris Waddle to
play his part, Manchester City's
manager, Frank Clark, has adAt Grimsby, Birmingham

mitted that Georgi Kinkladze is a major doubt. The inspirational Georgian midfielder limped out of the FA Cup defeat at home to Middlesbrough a fort-night ago and has been under intensive treatment ever since.

Clark has yet to be beaten in six League games since he took over at Maine Road, but he knows that his team are not the only side battling against the drop whose quality belies their lowly position. "Bradford have

player. As far as I can tell, they are in a false League position. Bradford's Portuguese striker, Sergio Pinto, is doubtful with ipating an intriguing battle be... a back problem, while Jonathan tween the First Division's two Gould is back in goal following Gould is back in goal followings the sale of Mark Schwarzer to Middlesbrough. City will have

> City's heleaguered manager, Trevor Francis, will be desperate for his side to avoid a seventh successive defeat. The Blues are without the suspended Paul Devlin, while Anders Limpar is doubtful.

Charleon's £400,000 signing from West Ham, Steve Jones, misses the trip to Swindon and could be out for at least a month, after injuring his knee in last week's 44 draw with Norwich. Sheffield United's new signing John Ebbrell misssome very good players and new signing John Ebbrell miss-Waddle, without a shadow of ce life trip to Portsmouth with a doubt, is an outstanding a foot injury.

Burns rallies his troops

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Celtic's manager, Tommy Burns, has instructed his players to for-get about the forthcoming Tenents Scottish Cup tie with Rangers and concentrate on picking up three points against

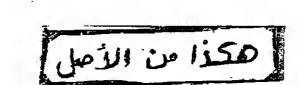
Hearts at Parkhead today.

Rangers lead the Premier Division by seven points and Celtic will be desperate for Aberdeen to avoid defeat against the champions at Pittodrie. Burns, who is likely to bring

in the Italian defender, Enrico Annoni, said: "We are going into a vital stage of the season and a period which could make or break it for us. These are the kind of games every top player wants to be involved in.

Paul Gascoigne's ankle injury looks like keeping him out of Rangers crucial League and Cup double-header against Celtic. He is due to have his plaster removed on Monday but will not be back before the Cup tie on Thursday or the League match, also at Parkhead, on 16 March. The Ibrox side will be without Derek McInnes at Ab-

erdeen today. Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, wants a big improve-ment on last week's defeat at Dunfermline. The application. attitude and desire could be bet ter, and the players have ad-Inglis, Billy Dodds and Dean Windass are suspended while Duncan Shearer and Stewart McKimmie are out injured.



Cop

Coppell in firm

lets hunt f

^{Nusedski} s

As Leicester discovered on Wednes-day night, anybody can make a So while Mike Reed's mistake in

And what is so frustrating is that up that are as much a talking point

the referee, like the customer, is al- of a game as a sloping pitch, ways right - even when he is wrong. Who could ever forget the ap-

awarding a penalty against Leices-ter for a foul that relevision revealed

as a dive has inevitably raised the

video evidence, his is simply the lai-est in a long line of referees balls-

palling decisions that resulted in-

Maradona's infamons "hand of

God" goal; Ronald Koeman getting off sout-free to end England's hopes of qualifying for USA '94 (and Graham Taylor's England career); Jeff Astle denying Leeds the 1971 championship. Hazald Schrift

1971 championship; Harald Schu-macher's unpunished assault on

Patrick Battiston at the 1982 World

Cup in Spain; and the Romanian

But far more bizarre - if admit-

goal that never was in Euro '96?

clamour for the introduction of miscued his shot from 15 yards out

day night, anybody can make a mistake-although that is little con-

solation when you are three minutes

from a penalty shoot-out and the

possibility of qualifying for the FA. Cup quarter-finals, and that "any-

I mean, how often have you heard

a referee admitting he cocked up?

Exactly. It is as rare as an East Fife win to hear an official admit, as lan-

Borrett once did to the former

Crystal Palace manager, Alan Smith:

"I'm having a crap game and nothing you say will change it."
Even more worryingly, referees often reveal totally different prior-

ities to the rest of us, as David Eller-

ay proved last year when he said: "I do like Selhurst Park. There's a

body" is the match referee.

ries. TBWA's by Trevor mpossiniv stretched old award lis (or its

laced bus

alo strong



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OBT., 7-9., 7-9.

LITA MER'S INDOOR SATELLITE MASTERS (Croydon) Passe: J Delgado IGBI DI M Stoding (Swe) 2-6 6-3 6-3.

WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Bushey) Singles, quanter-diseles R Sonds (Rom to D Lugna (Jun 3-6 6-4 6-4; D Chiadhous IC: Rept b) V Csurgo (Hans 6-2 6-4).

only for Sunderland to hit five in what was literally a game of three Mr WP Harper was doggedly un-

repentant when the official allowed a Newcastle goal to stand against Ar-senal in the 1932 FA Cup final, even though the ball had clearly gone out of play en route to goal. "It was a goal... as God is my judge. I was eight yards away," he claimed. Stills from British Movietone News show that the ball was definitely out and that Harper was 20 yards away. It was scant consolation to Arsenal: the record shows they missed out on the

Double that year. Belgium, meanwhile, missed out on progressing to the next stage of USA V4 thanks to the Swiss referee Kurt Röthlisherger, who failed to award either a penalty or send off the Ger-man defender Thomas Helmer for

place considering Case was 5ft 9in. ed. Derby, who had heen 3-0 up at bringing down Josip Weber in the 76th 12st and white while Wallace was 5ft the time, scored three more goals minute of their group match, with minute of their group match, with Germany leading 3-2 Röthlisberger admitted his mistake on the back of video evidence and was discarded by Fifa since be was "nearing retirement age anyway" - which must have made the Belgians wonder what he was doing there in the first place.

So Mike Reed is by no means the only guilty party. But just a word of warning to those who favour video evidence as a means of judging such decisions. After the Corinthian player Edmundo was sent off for striking a Santos defender during Brazil's 1995-96 season, bungling club officials brought the wrong tape to the subsequent hearing, forcing the disciplinary committee to sit through 30 minutes of The Adventures of Scooby Doo.

Which just goes to show that referees are not the only ones who can makes a dog's dinner of things.

Sainsbury next to the ground where tedly less significant - was the goal Coppell's return to combat

Football NICHOLAS HARLING

Steve Coppell, who looked and sounded a broken man when he walked out of Manchester City nearly four months ago, re-en-tered the fray of football management yesterday with Crystal

Palace for the second time. The pressures that Coppell had said were the reason he had left the Maine Road hot seat after just 33 days seemed to be far from his mind, judging by his relaxed countenance at Selhurst Park when he was named as Dave Bassett's successor at Palace for the second time in 13 years. He has taken the job in a caretaker capacity until the end of the season. Ray Lew-ington will stay as first team coach and will pick the side for .

today's game at Oxford United. While expectations may be ter City last October. slightly lower at Palace than at not give that as the reason why he was prepared to return to management. In announcing his departure from Maine Road in November "on medical grounds". Coppell had said: "I have suffered for some time from the huge pressure I have imposed on myself. Since my appointment this has completely overwhelmed me to such an exient that I can't function in the

job in the way I would like to." Yesterday Coppell refused to talk about his time at City, saying only: "It's over, done with, finished. I was in a footballing wilderness after that, but now I've got the opportunity to get my teeth into something."

The comments of Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, provided further confusion. Although it was Coppell himself who had announced to the world that he was leaving City because of "the huge pressure". Noades insisted: "The situa-Noades insisted: tion at Maine Road was all paper talk. Steve never got the chance to defend himself chance to defend himself against the allegations of pressure and Manchester City massaged the situation to satisfy their supporters. I don't think

his departure was down to ill-health, I think that is just some-thing Manchester City put out." Francis Lee, the City chairman was clearly taken aback by yesterday's news. I have to say that I am surprised, but we at Manchester City wish him all the best," he said.

Back at Selhurst Park, Coppell said: "I know the players here, the supporters and the per-sonnel, I feel comfortable here."

Coppell had already been doing some scouting work for Palace in recent weeks and this club. Noades employed him for the first time in 1984 following Bassett's about-turn three days after leaving Wimbledon. Hav-ing resigned following Palace's relegation from the Premiership in 1993, Coppell returned as technical director two years later before leaving for Manches-

When Bassett's latest reign cision to join Nottingham Forest as general manager, Noades decided "after a few jars with Ray Lewington" that Coppell was the man to keep them on the

First Division promotion trail. "The first six years of his previous stay was the most successful period in the club's history." Noades explained. During that time Palace won promotion in 1989, came within seven minutes of winning the FA Cup the following season and then finished third in the old First Division another year later.

"From the team's point of , view it means a fresh person coming in with least disruption, Coppell said. "Dave has done a great job in setting the club up and we're in a position of great potential with 14 games to go. I'm looking forward to those remaining games and I will do my. very best in get the chib into the

Premier League." He has no immediate plans for delving into the transfer market before the deadline.

for the final basket of the game Burton, who was once assis-

tant with the England team

under the London coach, Kevin

Cadle, said: "We'll just play

them hard like we've done in the

past and let the game take care

Cadle expects neutrals in the

Coppell in line to replace Bassett

How the Independent broke the news yesterday



هكذا من الأصل

Newcastle went barking mad, but the referee allowed the goal;

there is nothing in the FA rulebook about the intervention of dogs

Olivia Blair

ON SATURDAY

But nothing could save the em-

1985, booked Southampton's Dan-

Wallace for a foul that was actu-

barrassment of David Allison who,

ally committed by Jimmy Case, and then compounded his crime by send-

ing Wallace off for a second book-

able offence. Allison should never

have made the mistake in the first

4in, nine-and-a-half stone and black.

Erikstrup was not even looking

when he disallowed a goal in a game between Noerager and Ebeltoft in 1960, Noerager were 4-3 up when Erikstrup's false teeth fell out as he

prepared to blow the final whistle. As he bent down to pick them no Ebehoft equalised. Erikstrup disal-

lowed the goal; he argued that

while he had not actually blown, the

90 minutes were up and he "had to get my teeth back before some

player put his big foot on them". Then there was the referee who

booked a mute player for foul and

abusive language... and a certain Mr Kirkham who, having arrived 45

minutes late to referee a game be-

tween Derby and Sunderland in 1894, took the law into his own

hands and ordered it to be restart-

The Danish referee Henning

scored by n dog against Newcastle Town in the Staffordshire Sunday

Cup in November 1985. Stoke side

Knave of Chibs were 2-0 down

when one of their players hopelessly

- whereupon a dog ran on to the

field and showed Duncan Ferguson-

like prowess in rising to head the ball

into the net. Newcastle justifiably

went barking mad, but the referee

allowed the goal: apparently there is nothing in the FA rulebook about

There are rules, however, about

the intervention by referee or lines-

man. So when the referee inadver-

tently deflected the ball into the net

during a crucial 1968 metch between

Barrow and Plymouth Argyle, the

goal stood, sending Barrow to the top of the Third Division (although

the goal was later credited to a

Barrow striker to save the referee's

the intervention of dogs.

Guppy back with O'Neill

at Leicester

Port Vale's talented winger, Steve Guppy, yesterday signed for Leicester City in a £850,000 move, writes Alan Nixon. The deal could rise to £1m depending upon appearances.

The 27-year-old joined Port Vale from Newcastle United in November 1994 for £225,000 and began his League career playing for the Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, at

Mike Reed, the referee at the centre of the penalty controverwhich ended Leicester's FA Sy which ended Leman. Cup hopes, has revealed he was confronted by furious fans after the 1-0 defeat by Chelsea.

Reed, 45, was trapped in his car after the match at Stamford Bridge, which was decided by Reed's extra-time penalty award. He said fans abused him and thumped his car at traffic lights near the ground.

The former Aston Villa striker Dalian Atkinson has been training with Manchester City but might have to return to his Turkish club, Fenerbahce. Goalkeepers will find their job

specifications altered if certain rule changes are approved in Belfast by the International Board today. The most likely changes are allowing the keeper to move on his line for penalties, and extending the pass-back rule to include throw-ins. Newcastle flotation, page 23

Pearce on the prowl

Swart Pearce should be a happy man today. Nottingham Forest's caretaker player-manager has made it clear that he does not welcome the media attention which his new role has brought, but the cameras at this afternoon's Premiership match against Tottenham Hotspur are

likely to be directed elsewhere. After a week of dramanc change at Forest, much of the attention at White Hart Lane will be focused on Dave Bassett, the club's new general manag-er, and Irving Scholar, who is one of the key figures behind the consortium which won control

of Forest this week. Bassett and Pearce may be the Londoners returning to the capital, but nobody in the Forest camp will feel more at home today than Scholar, who was Tottenham's chairman until he was replaced by Alan Sugar six years ago. Scholar, a Tottenham fan since his schooldays, once said

that he loved the club "as much as anyone in my own family" Scholar agrees that "it will be very strange" to be supporting the visitors today and added: "The last match I was involved in was the 1991 Cup final, when Tottenham beat Nottingham Forest, and that my first match back will be at Tottenham is, I have to admit a little bit spooky."

Both teams will be desperate for points. Forest have underne a spirited revival under

Mark Pierson on a weekend of fevered pursuit of Premiership points

relegation positions, while Tottenham have won only one of their last seven matches. "We must start picking up points again or we'll be looking over our shoulders," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. Tottenham's cause was not

helped by the news that Teddy Sheringham aggravated his ankle injury when making a scoring return at West Ham on Monday, and is definitely out of today's game. Having lost only once at Tottenham in the past six years, Forest will see today as a chance to pull clear of the two teams below them, Middlesbrough and Southampton, who face difficult away matches against Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United respectively.

The two teams above Forest also travel. West Ham going to Leeds and Gordon Strachan taking Coventry to visit Man-chester United, one of his former clubs. Victory will put United, the Premiership leaders, four points clear of secondplaced Liverpool, who travel iomorrow to Aston Villa. Newcastle, meanwhile, can move to within two points of Liverpool if they overcome the loss of the Pearce but are still in one of the injured Alan Shearer and beat

Southampton. Yesterday. Kenny Dalglish shrugged off the absence of Shearer, who had his third groin operation inside a year this week. "Injuries and suspensions are part and parcel of the game," Dalglish said, "and Alan's misfortune will be some-

one else's good fortune." The championship is in danger of becoming a three-horse race as Arsenal struggle to recover their form of last autumn. Arsène Wenger's team face a tricky match at Everton, although they may welcome a match away from Highbury after three successive home defeats.

Wimbledon, still going strong on three fronts, will hope to strengthen their challenge for a Uefa Cup place when they en-tertain Leicester. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said yesterday that money was available to strengthen his squad, and because of injuries and suspensions be intended to do so.

Leicester and last year's two other clubs promoted from the First Division, Derby and Sunderland, have all performed above most observers' expectations this season, but none of the trio, who occupy 12th, 13th and 14th places in the table, are safe. Derby face a difficult match to-

day at home to their fellow FA Cup quarter-finalists, Chelsea, while Sunderland play away to the team immediately beneath them in the table, Blackburn.

Comeback on course for Olazabal

ANDY FARRELL reports from Dubai

Ever since the Ryder Cup qualifting process started in September, it has been difficult to evaluate the largely academic question of whether Seve Ballesteros or Jose Maria Olazabal was more likely to make the European team this year. Two days into Olazabal's comeback after 18 month's absence due to a foot injury and it is fairly clear.

Despite a triple-bogey eight at the 18th (it was that sort of day - there were six eights and two nines), Olazabal shot a 74 in the second round of the Dubai Desert Classic to be one under par. Ballesteros shot an 84 to be 15 shots worse. Olly will be here for the weekend; Seve

Being in the middle of the desert, the Emirates course is somewhat exposed when a strong wind blows and anything under par yesterday was

Olazabal, in his first tournament since September '95, would have achieved that with a par at the 18th. Having started at the 10th, he was five under when he pulled his drive at

the par-five and took two more to get back to the fairway. Then he faced a 130-yard shot over the water to the green but did not make it. "I tried a punchy seven-iron but it flew above the tents and the wind

took it." Olazabal said. 'Apart from that hole, it was a good round. I will ask the sponsors to let me play 17 holes tomorrow because it felt like 19 today, but I am just happy to be uncharred surspace over the

weekend. playing on the weekend."

two double-bogevs. "It's got to be killing him," Greg Norman said. The world No 1 once faced himself in the mirror when the victories dried up in the early 1990s, but says what the Spaniard is suffering is worse.

I would be thinking about walking away if I was shooting 84s," Norman said, "You bleed

That success is in contrast to his countryman, who has failed

to make the cut for the third

time in three attempts this year.

Seve's eventful round contained

one hirdie, nine bogevs and

for Seve and for Ian Baker-Finch, Seve is an inspiration to be around. He still has that aura, even for me. Certain indi-viduals have it, like Nelson Mandela, George Busb and Bill Clinton. Norman showed his class yes-

terday with birdies at the two bardest holes on the course, the 434-yard uphill eighth and the 463-yard ninth, both playing against the wind. The Australian's 68 was only one outside Ian Woospam's best round of the y that took the Welshman into joint second with the broomhan-

dle-wielding Bernhard Langer. They were both two shots behind Spain's Domingo Hospital. While his co-leader overnight, Colin Montgomerie. played better but stayed at seven under, Hospital played worse and got to 10 under with a 69. An occasional commercial pilot, the secret to Hospital's success has been to leave the driver given to him by Ballesteros at home, and out the putter given to him by Olazahal in his hag. The result has been 28 and 27 purts on the first two days and the chance to fly into

Easy Oars soars

Sailing

Skiing

Tony Buckingham's 40ft Easy Oars led the celebrations for the British trio of 1997 Admiral's Cup boots as they put in another set of solid performances at the SORC regatta in Miami, writes Stuart Alexander.

Despite gear failure in the third race of a five-day series, the Olympic helmsman Andy Beadsworth took Easy Oars, the former American team vacht Pigs in Space, to a close-fought third race and then led from start to finish in the fourth. Also enjoying the breezy, 18

Varvara Zelenskaya, of Russia, won her second World Cup downhill in a month

vesterday on the course for next year's

of Tim Barrett's Mumm 30. Bradamante, With the 1990 Olympic silver medallists. John Merricks and Ian Walker, steering and calling ractics, aided by 1992 the 470 Olympian Andy Hemmines trimming sails, they showed good downwind speed to take two second places. Completing the picture. Gra-ham Walker's 45ft Indulgence

to 22-knot winds was the crew

made up for a fifth place in the third race, when caught by a shift in wind direction, with a well-earned third in the fourth. The 14 yachts in the BT Chair lenge begin the fourth leg from

Sydney to Cape Town tomorrow.

Jets hunt for first trophy

Mike Burton, the Chester Jets coach, hopes his players will take at least a four point lead into the final minute in unitary

League Trophy final, when they

of itself

Cadle e final minute of tomorrow's 7-Up

crowd to back Chester, but beers, the holders, at Birmingham's lieves his team's away games in NEC, writes Richard Taylor. the European Cup have pre-The Jets have lost the last pared them. "Every European two out of three Budweiser League meetings against the game was like a cup final, so lowers this season, but only af we've been in this situation al-

ter London hit a three-pointer ready this season," he said. Rusedski still out injured

pulled out of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam next week.

had to pull out of Memphis, which followed San Jose, but Greg Rusedski is still suffering came back in the Philadelphia with a wrist injury and has tournament this week, losing 6-4, 6-2 to Thomas Johansson of Sweden in the first round. Now back in London, Rused-Rusedski, the British No 2. ski is still in pain and feels it is was injured playing Pete Sam-

pras in the final of the San Jose fittile to play in Rotterdam and

tournament two weeks ago. He risk aggravating the injury.

Basketball . NBA: Cleveland 73 Choigo 70; LA Lakers 122 Weshington 107; Minnesota 107 Dates 105 tod: Cretote 105 Houston 95; Usih 118 Teronio 114

BOWNESS ALL-ENGLAND INDOOR CHAMP-DONSHIPS (York) Fours championship, first reamet king George Feidt (J Annen) or Pirmon Arthur (L Ryan) 24-18; Cheswell (S Lacey) bit Eddington Count (J Cesma) 25-8; County Ara (L Shorter) bit St Neess M Debourne) 13-18; Pymouth Mayflower (M Jenkins) bit Beaches (G Synthy 20-17; Weakten (M Resma) bit Not-tinghart (J Thomas) 19-16; Richertsborts (S Sulfungs) bit Ive Green (S Biocomised) 22-18; Sollent (B Till bit Registers (B Kitson) 24-15; Egham (D Handen) bit Desimpton (M Stew) 24-14. Under 31 singles, first reseath A Cowstell (Louth in E Alexandre (Oth of Ely 21-16; C Northeal (Feighbridge) bit B Hill (Tibury) 21-10; Il Struss (Old Mill Leiseure) bit K Steinley (Northealponn) 21-15.

The purse offer deadline for Lannox Lewis's mandatory World Boxing Council title defence against London's Florida-based Henry Akinwande has been brought forward from 9 April to 17 March. The change was made at the request of Lewis's British promoter, based to the state. Panos Eliades, to speed up the stag-

November Nishingla, the world-ranked South African featherweight, fought for the final six rounds with only one hand the final SX (QUINGS WITH ONLY OF I HAN yesterday but still spored a unanknous 10-round points decision over the Mexican Antonio Hemandez. Nishing-ia dislocated his right shoulder after four rounds of the international bout and was forced to rely on his left jab for the re-

SPORTING DIGEST Cricicat

England will be visiting Sherjah in the United Arab Emirates this December to take part in a four-nation tournament. les. The event starts on 11 December, with the final taiking place on 19 December. The tournament is seen as an important part of the overall preparation of the England team prior to their tour of West Indies.

RED STRIPE CLIP (First day of four) Rouseus, Developing: Windward Islands 159 II R Mus-ray 100); Trindad and Tobego 91 for 1. Georgehows: Guyana v Barbados (no play-

ENGLAND TOUR ITRIERARY (West Indian 1998): 16-19 Jan: v.lamaca Under-23 (Fou daysir, 22-25 Jans v Jameira (Four days); 29 Jan-2 Petr: FRST TEST (Jameira); 6-9 Febr Jam-2 Pebr. FRST TEST Lamescht. 6-8 Pebr. Frundsy metch (Trivided and Tobago); 23-47. Febr. SECOND TEST (Trivided and Tobago); 21-23. Febr. Three-day metch (Layeran); 27 Febr. THERO TEST (Guyena); 27-6 Marr. THERO TEST (Guyena); 27-8 Marr. FRST (Barbados); 32-16 Marr. FRST (Barbados); 10-16 say); 29 Marr. FRST one-day intermethonal (St Luce); 4 Agrs. Third one-day intermethonal (St Vincent); 5 Agrs. First one-day intermethonal

Drugs in sport A doping control expert at the Russian Olympic Committee lost an eye when he was severely beaten in an attack his colleagues said could be linked to his anti-drugs work. Yun Voovin has pertial amnesia after the incident on a Moscow street. Collegues said Vdown had dop-ing samples with him when he was at

estrianism PARIS VOLVO WORLD CUP MEETING (Paleis Ornelsports de Bergy): Prix des Societes: 1 Amores Reviton (Il Societes, Fr) door 29-32; 2 Vruet Villey Wolfren (I Winteles; GB) des 20,083; 3 Aphriles du Mema IP Delindou, Fri clier 32.12. Football

Jimmy Nicholl, who was dismissed as manager of Millwell earlier this year and was sent off on his debut for Bath City The expenenced centre-forward Gary Bermett, 33, has rejoined Wresham for £100,000 from Preston.

The highly-rated West Harn teenager Lee

Hodges has joined Leyton Orient on loan. The midfielder also had a spell at Exeter earlier this season. The Dutchman Rinus Israel has signed a contract to coach Ghana until the 1998 Word Cup. He won 47 caps for the Netherlands and was in Feyenbord's 1970 European Cup-winning side. TRANSFERS: Migal Proper Hartender) York to Bradford Cry (£100,000); Anally Gook (detend-er) Swensen to Portsmouter, Hick Heary (mot-selder) (Differen to Snetflest Usd: Deag Hoolgron (defender) Shefflest Utal to Oktaan.

(defender) Sheffield Util to Okthem.

LDAN: Stamit Elliott idetender) Newforste Utato Hull Oby.
FA CARLINES PRESIDENCIAMP Postponned melchaes: Set 8 Mars Derby v Southermotors; Melestrough v Buckum Idoe in FA Opp ties).
Re-emanged metatives: Web 13 Mars Lectelite v Totherham: Medienbrough v Backburn. Wed 6 Apr. Derby v Southampton; Sheffield Webriesday v Totherham; Webbiedon v Aston Villa. Wed 16 Apr. Newtriste v Chelsea.

DURAL DESERT CLASSIC Leading second-mend course (GB or Irl spless stated): 134

The control of the co

O Hospital (Sp) 65-69, 136-8 Langer (Ger) 66-70; I Wiccenam 69-67, 127 C Montgement 65-70; R Burns, 68-69, 128-9 Hornington 66-77; R Green (Mas) 70-68, 139-6 Roces in 170-69; A Discom 69-70; K Erikson (Suer) 68-71; R Coles, 69-70; G Horman (Mar, 17-68; M Mettan (Sp) 70-69; P Mansaering (Phai) 68-71; 1-40-R Cramman 69-71; P Mansaering (Sp) 71; 1-50-86; Hall (Sp) 72-19; M Mansaering 69-71; 1-50-86; M Westner (SA) 72-69; M James 66-75; J Van de Vette (Fr) 67-75; D Gafort 69-75; P Drummond 71-71; D Robottson 17-75; D Salver 69-75; P Drummond 71-71; D Robottson 17-76; D Langer 69-76; P Salver 69-76; P Langer 69-76; P Langer 69-76; P Langer 69-76; Su Langer 77-77; D M Champing 70-72; D Cleme T3-70; J M Okasbel (Sp) 69-74; S Langer 77-71; J Mansaeri 70-73; P Mitchell 70-73.

Hockey

Justin Pidcock, Cannock's 28-year-old midfield player, has been brought into the England squad for the trip to Pakistan following the withdrawal of lan Morrison. Pidcock will be making his international debut. DER-21 TOURNAMENT (Portion Scotland 3: France 3 Irrestd 2.

NHL: Boston 6 Tempe Boy 2: Detroid 4 Prisourgh 1: Fonds 3 St. Louis 2 rout; New Jessey 4 Buf-felo 1: Detars 6 Colomodo 2: Vencouver 6 Phoenia 2: Los Angeles 6 Edmonton 3. Rugby Union

SUPER-12 MATIS! (Palementon North, NZ): Watern Chefs 23 Wellington Humanes 18. WALES SQUAD (World Cop Sevene, Hong Kong, 21-23 March; Myelf (Limelli, Cabbs (Svanoca, Captris Svenoca, Howley) (Sartiff), Davies (Cardiff), Beassen (Refmond), Waller (Cardiff),

yesterally in the course for hear year's hagano Olympics which sivers com-plained resembled a super-G piste. Ze-lenskaya sped down the bumpy, hard-packed 2,656-metre track in 1min 35.59sec to collect her third ca-reer World Cup downfull victory. ALPRIE WORLD CIP (Malaba, Japan) Women's downlift 1 V Zeenskays (Ruf Limm 35 555ec; 2 H Linds RJS 13605; 3 C Mercaig (fo. 2-3603; 4 P Website Ross 1 5 CC AP National Liscolar & Instrument (**) 2.50.05* AP National (Sury 1.36.16); 5 N Feeringer Gerri 1.36.30; 6 H Zurtinggen (Sent 1.36.36; 7 R Goetschi (Aut) 1.36.56; 8 J Mesmar (IV) 1.36.50; 10 A Mesmar

Snooker EUROPEAN OPEN (Matta) Quarter-Gree J Wat-taria (Their bt S Hendry (Scot 5-2.

Yorkshire's Simon Parke will be seedfinals of next month's British Open in No 4 on the new world ranking fist. LEADING WORLD RANGINGS: 1 Jarsher Ivan Plak, 2 R Eylos (Aust: 3 P Mood (Soot; 4 5 Porte (Engl: 6 C Walker (Engl: 6) Power (Cani: 7 A Barada (Eg: 8 8 Martin (Aus): 9 D Martin (Engl.

BRITISH CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (Stock-purt) First Session; MEN: 60m fractlyin; 1 M Foster (Both Univ 22-29an; 2 M Fibbers (Hot-

feeth 23.31; 3 M Danes (Secretae 23.10)
1500m feetstylet 3 P Parmer Realt User (Smith 19.96ec 2 Useron IRealt 15.27 feeth General Portsmouth Hartheste 15.26.26 300m feetstraket 11 Raie; (Soldred 15.86.26 300m feetstraket 11 Raie; (Soldred 15.86.2 3 M Gamman (Option Alburge) 52.33 300m feetstylet 11 Parmen (Stachout Metro 53.33 300m feetstylet) 11 Parmen (Stachout Metro 53.73 A Coyden Reads 54.85; 2 M Forster Reith University 5 04. Top town meant) 12 Bent (Imerica) 320c 2 Leads 321c. 3 Luggiptortug 15 Nuterits 2950; WOMEDE 55.52 & C 3 Imphorough Studente 2959, WOMEN: Som treastyle: 1.5 Polon (featastife: 25-52; 2.0 Davies (5-56), 3.0 Milarskall (Polismath Nortises) 15-97; 400m treastyle: 2.4 Honer (5004), 400m treastyle: 2.4 Honer (5004), 419-83, 3.5 Neste Germann Martheau (421-78; 100m bleaststoke: 1.5 Bransdon (Covern), 11-17-70; 2.6 Fisher (Polismatin Northeau 4, 11-2, 7.3 L mandrash (Leeds) 112-59; 200m butterfly: 1.1 Pediae (Polismatin Northeau 212-23, 2.0 Foot York, 217-33, 3 Hayert (Leet) 2, 20, 45, Top bayers 1 Polismatin Northeau 3770; 2 Leeds 3081, 3 Covernty 3077 Overall top teams 2 Leeds 5033, 2 Polismatin Nurvises 6, 2011; 3 Stockpon Memo 5995.

Jim Couner, the defending champion went out of the Advanta Championships in Philadelphia yesterday after being beat en by Grant Stafford, of South Africa too seed, survived his second round chall

HMIN 6-2 6-4.
ADVANTA CHARMYONISHEPS TOURNAMENT
(Philadelphia) Singles, second round P Symuse IUS bt J Bohtman (Saler 7-7-6-6 Salhom
/Sal bu Couner IUS) 6-3 5-1 6-2; 8 Book Comht T Woodbridge (Aus; 6-2 6-3); 8 Stoke (Augbt J Albert Viloca (Sp.) 4-7 6-3 6-4.

Parkes takes care **Guy Hodgson meets** unworried of Ewood, page 30



FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Time for De Glanville to command centre stage at Twickenham for title decider against Tricolores



England wary of unfamiliar French

CHRIS HEWETT

Rugby Union Correspondent

Olivier Merle's sudden occupation of the moral high ground has provoked so much laughter on this side of the Channel that England might be forgiven for thinking that the French have finally relinquished their notoriously tentative grip on rugby reality. They would be mistaken. Twickenham will be no place for complacent assumptions this afternoon.

There is no doubt that England can win - and win well for they have seen off better French sides than this in recent years. If Abdel Benazzi, the visiting captain, is to be believed. the Tricolores have only a 30 per cent chance of victory - a figif the Red Rose is in full bloom come the final whistle.

But as Tim Rodber, the England No 8, said vesterday, the unfamiliarity of the French lineup only adds to the potential pitfalls lying in the path of the favourites. Had Emile Ntamack, Philippe Saint-Andre, Thomas Castaignède and Richard Dourthe been strutting their stuff across the greensward. England would have known what to expect. By comparison, the likes of Laurent Leflamand and David Vendit-

spectres in the darkness. The danger for England is that they simply cannot predict how the French will approach what amounts to a Five Nations title decider. Benazzi, a great back-row forward in anyone's language, is hard-headed the suspected fitness level of Be- line | pragmatic? a French nazzi's hugely influential out- swearword surely). On the othside-half. Alain Penaud - and er hand, he may just throw cau-

to lose than their opponents.

Now that really would be worth watching. Penaud and Venditti apart, there are two other members of the Brive back division on view and if Philippe Carbonneau and Christophe Lamaison enjoy anything like the space given to them by Leicester in the final of the Heineken Cup in Janu-ary, England will be playing for pride rather than a Grand Slam when they reach Cardiff in a fortnight's time. ti are, for the time being at least, The right attitude will be of

the essence for both sides. which brings us neatly back to Monsieur Merle, the man mountain from Montferrand via Grenoble. His view of the English rughy mentality -"very unappealing, for their players are arrogant and pre-tentious" - might carry more clout were it not for his own reputation as an Alp-sized liquidator with an over-active it will come as no great surprise tion to the wind on the right fist. As Ricky Evans, an

hasis that his side have far less to lose than their opponents. aggrieved Welsh prop. is pre-pared to testify in court, Merle is no one's idea of a "play up and play the game" tradi-

ENGLAND V FRANCE wcastle 15 J-L.S. Bath 14 L Lefta P de Glanvil Newcastle 11 D Venditti Underwood forthampton 10 A Penaud Grayson .Bristol 2 M Dal Ma Harlequins 3 F Tournaire M Johnson

M Catt (Bath), 18 A Healey (Leoceter), 19 B Clarke (Ruchmond), 20 D Garforth (Leicester), 21 P Greening (Goucester).

the French have taken some public steps towards cleaning up their act. Merle, Dourthe and Franck Tournaire have all been suspended for violent

Toulouse

are in stark contrast to England's under-the-carpet approach. The Rugby Football Union will not want to hear this, but the French are getting it right more often than most

three seasons and those efforts

Sensibly, both Jack Rowell, the England coach, and Phil de Glanville, his captain, have spent much of the last week emphasising the supreme impor-tance of discipline. "We became involved in a few things that would have been better avoided during the first few minutes in Dublin a fortnight back and it's essential that we steer clear of that trap against the French," said De Glanville, whose pow-ers of leadership were rightly extolled by Rowell earlier in the

Today's match could scarce-Glanville's point of view. Omitted from the preliminary Lions perceived anonymity of his international performances, he must prove to his doubters -Fran Cotton included - that he can do more than simply organise the players around him. To be blimt, he needs to catch the eye on centre stage rather than pull a few strings from behind the curtain.

As so often this season, untimely injury has hindered the captain's preparation. The ankle problems that affected De Glanville earlier this week are said to have cleared, but then Penaud is reported by the French to be in the pink as well. The black arts of disinformation are as rife in rugby as in every nther walk of life and it will be no shock if both Jeremy Guscott and David Aucagne. the talented stand-off from Pau, make it off the bench and

With a young English pack avoid a similar fate. showing early signs of impending greatness, De Glanville and

his fellow backs should see

Phil Shaw talks to

of the Black Country

Steve Bull, the local here

^{on} Eurostar,

In Monday's 20-page sports section

you can enjoy

Don't bother lining out at

scrumming for a tax at

Sit in a warm, spacious

romantic novel, discuss

theology, perhaps evan

of scrabble. What could

Oh, and in the unlikely

event that you wish to

indulge in an alcoholic

beverage, the bar is open

all the way to the centre

rugby supporters prefer

0345 303030 or see an appointed travel

of Paris. No wonder

training to flying.

play a relaxing gama

be more civilised?

passport control or

Paris airport.

Eurostar, Read a

a relaxing game

of FizzBuzz.

more than enough of the ball to a mighty finale at Cardiff Arms Park. Although the French back row looks a class unit, especially now that Olivier Magne is in-volved on a full-time basis, the home trio showed enough against Ircland to suggest that they will shade it in the loose. Equally, it is hard to see the French tight forwards forcing into their shells, especially as there is no Olivier Roumat to test Simon Shaw's mettle in the middle of the line-out.

Perhaps more than in any other match this season, the first 15 minutes hold the key. Five weeks ago, Brive caught Leicester so cold that by the time the Tigers realised they find a game on their hands, it had already slipped away. If England can hit

Leonard and Benazzi profiles, Scots look to Tail.

American football could provide model

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Rughy union was yesterday invited to adopt American football's salary capping system and clubs di also to seek backing from interbarrel. national companies. Dan Rooney, the president of Pittsburgh Steelers, speaking at a

of the game, insisted that salary capping was the only fair system to ensure that no club went broke through exorbitant wage demands, and that the wealthier clubs did not have a bottomless

"It is important to get everyone on the same wage," said Rooney, who had interrupted a

seminar, organised by Rugby News magazine in association with The Independent.

"The way it works is that the teams pool their gross revenue in a season, and this is shared equally among all 30 teams," Rooney explained. While no maximum wage operates in the NFL there is a minimum level.

appealed to the Rugby Football Union secretary, Tony Hallett, also at the seminar, he said it would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce from a legal and

practical point of view. Rooney invited English clubs to seek overseas investment. He claimed the United Kingdom provides more visitors to Disney World in Florida than any other

DOWN

Present scoundrel with the

cost of accommodation (7)

More apathy stirred up about artist's "essential"

Fool losing head after in-

dividual turned up to make a proclamation (7)

Not entirely fake punch it goes to the head (5)

We hear Hebridean island

exploded with colour (3-4)

Communication missing a long time? Confusion re-

Unusual cameo with har-vester in full [4,1,7] Joke, English, about his-

torical period of prosperi-

 Thus to vote unexpectedly will install Conservative on

the quiet (5,4)

treatment (12)

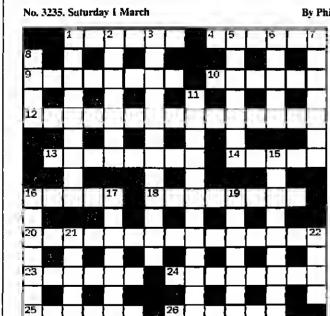
country. He also revealed that the and Sony. Television has Disney Corporation is in the opened the door to advertising Disney Corporation is in the process of huilding a sports complex. "You have to deal with

international sponsors," he said. "You have to align your-selves with, for example, telephone companies, breweries, banks and the leisure industry as well as major players such as

and sponsors."

Whether more English clubs have the courage to follow the example of Harlequins and seek international funding - they are sponsored by NEC - remains to be seen hut the invitation and opportunity exists.

seminar in London on the state busy schedule to speak at the Although the salary cap



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

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Saluday I March 1997

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD **ACROSS**

Spy group infiltrating most of single party (6) Causes annovance when

thrown into river (6) Former rioter reformed outside (8) 10 Sailor embraced by chap

from group of business-12 Produces a net deficit? (6.2.3,4)

13 She's foot in motion. showing a style of danc-ing (4-4) 14 Bird dog heading off (5)

to Glasses in bits, we hear t8 Lancashire town boy coming back enthralled

by French rock (8) Slug repellent not usually seen in garden (6-5.4) 23 Hurried to acquire some

police rank (6) 24 Advanced job that's worried one who's lapsed (8)
 25 A couple of lines about

resterday's exam (t-5) 26 Show annoyance or re-

16 A description of Gibraltar or part of Russia? (7) 17 Fruitless means of access provided without hesita-

tv (6, 3)

10 Made safe with skill. mostly, and with experi-21 Topless dive? Lean forward suddenly (5)
22 Cute bird's sound cut short

The first five correct solutions in this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Susy Nicholson. Llansilin: J Thurpe, Flurden: K Smith, Saltaire: G Knowles, Preston: J Spivack, Harrow.

ICC chief wants Test world championship Cricket

A formally recognised Test cricket world championship, first proposed by the Independent four years ago, could he in place by the end of the year.

Speaking in Johannesburg during the first Test between South Africa and Australia David Richards, the chief executive of the International Cricket Council. said yesterday that he would be seeking assurances from all nine Test playing nations that a formalised world championship

would have their backing. "The next ICC meeting is in Kuala Lumpur on March 23 and once we've agreed in principle it's just a question of juggling itineraries to make sure that all the countries play each other home and away over, perhaps, a four-year period," he said.

The Independent suggested a system with points awarded for winning and drawing Test matches, away wins worth twice as many points as those at home. and bonus points awarded for series victories.

Matthew Engel, the editor of Wisden, recently suggested an alternative system whereby a team winning a series would get two

no points for a lost series. "The points system suggested by Matthew Engel seems to be the simplest," Richards said.

Richards added: "There is a feeling that we need to reaffirm what the players feel about the importance and status of Test cricket and a world championship would certainly raise its profile. The ICC cannot limit the number of one-day games played around the world - that is up to each individual country - but both Mark Taylor and Hansie Cronje [captains of Australia and South Africa, respectively] have expressed their concerns to me about the hectic nature of

modern playing schedules."

The England management has agreed to allows wives and girifriends to join the players during the tour to the West Indies next year, the itinerary for which was announced yesterday. The tour will also allow more time for rest and prepa-ration than the tours to Zimhabwe and New Zealand. The party will acclimatise in Antigua before travelling to Jamaica for the first Test.

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West Indies tour itinerary, Sporting Digest, page 31





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